

From: <u>m604b47@yahoo.com</u>

To: Columbia River Crossing;

CC:

Subject: Comment from CRC DraftEIS Comments Page

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 9:46:06 AM

Attachments:

Home Zip Code: 97219 Work Zip Code: 97232

Person:

Other - Drive through to visit clients

Person commutes in the travel area via:

Car or Truck

1. In Support of the following bridge options:

Replacement Bridge

2. In Support of the following High Capacity Transit options:

Light Rail between Vancouver and Portland

3. Support of Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail by location:

Lincoln Terminus: No Opinion

Kiggins Bowl Terminus: No Opinion Mill Plain (MOS) Terminus: No Opinion Clark College (MOS) Terminus: No Opinion

Contact Information: First Name: Richard Last Name: Byrd

Title:

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Comments:

I am very frustrated with the option put forward by the 3 councilors to simply charge a toll on the current bridge to "discourage traffic." This shows such a lack of big picture

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thinking it is appalling! First off, do they think anyone is driving over the bridge during rush hour on a pleasure cruise? Don't they get that the only people who are crossing the bridge at those times are either 1)Commercial trucks, 2)commuters who have a financial reason to go to work or get home or 3)hapless travelers who just happened to hit the bridge at the wrong time.

What part of "worst bottleneck on the West Coast" don't they get? If they have ever been stuck in traffic on the bridge (which I doubt) they would see that every third vehicle is a commercial big rig hauling goods. The backbone of our economy is the trucking industry, as we must have the ability to haul goods to consumers. We need to fix this bottleneck if for no other reason than to free up the trucking routes. Plus, have they not noticed that our population has grown? We need visionary thinkers who can see and plan for the continued growth, as people are not going to stop coming here. The idea of using a toll to "discourage traffic" shows a complete lack of sense. Should we have discouraged traffic when we built our interstate highway system? This is a part of that network and one that is now not working very well. It is time to move forward and prepare for the growth ahead. Use HOV lanes, truck lanes, land use planning for areas around off ramps, but for heavens sake, let's build a new bridge and break the gridlock!