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COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING DRAFT EIS
PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

RED LION HOTEL
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

00077

1 here it seems that we are even more
2 married to the car than the Portland area.
3 We are throwbacks. I don't know what's
4 wrong with us here. We are provincial.
5 We do not get it, and the people in
6 Portland seem to have got it. And we've
7 got to realize that we are going to have
8 to have some sort of dependance upon
9 communal transportation.

10 Thank you.

11 HAL DINGERINK: Thank you. Karen.

12 KAREN AXELL: My name is Karen
13 Axell. I live on East 29th Street in
14 Vancouver. I am against any form of light
15 rail and I did testify to that also six to
16 seven years ago at the I-5 transportation
17 project and 13 years ago when we all in
18 Clark County voted against light rail.



19 It is too expensive. There are no
20 clear funding options projected. It does
21 not reduce congestion. Figures show that
22 less than one percent shift from cars to
23 light rail the per rider cost is too
24 high.

25 They show that -- it seems to be

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1 promoted by some sort of special interest.
2 I don't know what it is, but from what I
3 have read what I heard tonight, there are
4 many people and many unanswered questions
5 and people who are against it.

6 A County Commissioner has been quoted
7 as saying that we need to vote on any
8 proposal to operate high capacity transit.
9 The Clark College Trustees have just now
10 mounted what they call an intensive
11 process before endorsing any alternatives.
12 This after you have already spent millions
13 of dollars promoting Clark College as one
14 of the terminals.

15 Metro and Portland, three Councilors
16 have opposed all alternatives that were
17 put forward by you. And neighbors and
18 business are just beginning to understand
19 the effect that the alternatives will have
20 on them.

21 You have heard from many of them
22 tonight. Small businesses in Vancouver
23 are already having a lot of trouble and
24 putting this in front of them is even more
25 problems for them. I don't know if many

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1 of them even know that they are on your
2 Appendix D list of acquisitions.

3 What you are putting forth is
4 inadequate. Traffic studies project
5 morning rush hour commute for Clark County
6 in 2030 will be 41 minutes from 179th
7 Street to the I-84 interchange if the new
8 bridge gets built -- that is only ten
9 minutes longer than today -- and five
10 minutes faster if there is no new bridge.

11 You projections show that it actually
12 takes two minutes longer to drive the
13 busiest part of the route from SR-500 and
14 Columbia Boulevard in Portland with a new
15 bridge than if we stayed with the old one.

16 For some reason it seems light rail
17 is being promoted by special interests.
18 The process is insulting to the public.

19 Mayor Pollard has said, "We have
20 studied everything to death. It's time to
21 make a decision. We shouldn't waste any
22 more of our citizens' money."

23 I couldn't agree more. I think we
24 wasted money doing this. It seems like a
25 corrupt way of doing business.

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
County of Clark)

I, Cathy S. Taylor, a notary public
for the State of Washington do hereby
certify that I transcribed to the best of
my ability said proceedings written by me
in machine shorthand and thereafter
reduced to typewriting; and that the
foregoing transcript constitutes a full,
true and accurate record of said
proceedings and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and notarial seal
this 16th day of June, 2008.

Cathy S. Taylor, RPR, CSR
Notary Public for the State of Washington
My Commission expires April 15, 2009