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COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING DRAFT EIS
PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

RED LION HOTEL
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

00041

1 selling its appeal to the majority of the
2 population who would use it and no
3 convincing proof that light rail is the
4 best and only viable solution for
5 interstate traffic flowing faster across
6 the I-5 corridor, for less congestion and
7 for greater highway safety.

8 The mayor said it's wasting
9 taxpayers' money to answer any more
10 questions. I'm a tax payer. The cost of
11 a thorough and honest assessment of this
12 issue is certainly a drop in the bucket
13 compare to the billions of dollars I hear
14 the project will ultimately cost.

15 Thank you.

16 HAL Dengerink: Thank you, Debra.
17 I don't know how to pronounce your name.

18 DVIJA MICHAEL BERTISH: You did fine
19 earlier. Dvija Michael Bertish. I am at
20 1514 East 29th Street in Vancouver. And I
21 am -- personally I oppose the elements of
22 the project that incorporate light rail or
23 displacements of land acquisitions. I am
24 also offering technical comments on behalf
25 of Rosemary Neighborhood Association and



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1 Columbia River Keeper. I also ask for an
2 extension of the public comment period --
3 I echo that sentiment -- and I think that
4 the Environmental Impact Statement is
5 technically inadequate.

6 As a major federal project over a
7 major water body and through a sensitive
8 aquifer area, there is no reference in the
9 EIS to hydro-geologic studies. Water
10 modeling, impacts of construction on the
11 river, and the NEPA process requires an
12 EIS to address these major components in a
13 single environmental document before a
14 record of decision is issued. The draft
15 is not compliant with this requirement.

16 NEPA does not allow for the
17 compartmentalization of project components
18 and multiple documents to avoid
19 substantive review.

20 The document briefly mentions sole
21 source aquifer designation and then states
22 it is EPA's job to ensure public health
23 and safety standards and compliance with
24 sole source protection.

25 There is no hydro-geologic analysis

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1 presented in the draft which insures
2 compliance with the project under sole
3 source review. EPA is not supposed to do
4 your background job for you.

5 There is no mention of the proximity
6 of Vancouver Lake to the project just
7 downstream. Any disturbance of river
8 sediment will flow right into our river
9 and into the lake via the Flushing
10 Channel. The lake is currently under
11 preliminary site assessment with EPA for
12 superfund status and no downstream effects
13 are even mentioned in this project in the
14 draft.

15 There is also no mention of existing
16 superfund sites and proximity to the
17 bridge area including ground water plumes
18 and their potential effects from
19 environmental disturbances of this
20 magnitude.

21 The draft references Burnt Bridge
22 Creek several times including impairments,
23 but only lists two parameters. The draft
24 does not state that Burnt Bridge Creek is
25 currently under a TMDL study and CRC

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1 should coordinate water quality monitoring
2 and erosion control in coordination with
3 Ecology's efforts currently underway.

4 Parameters should be expanded to
5 include all of those listed in the study
6 with Ecology. There are no long-term
7 impacts listed that are in 3.19.9 that
8 talk about the possibility of long-term
9 subsidies of the public for maintenance
10 and operations of light rail. And I
11 personally can't afford to pay more taxes
12 on that.

13 Finally, the draft list census data
14 for the Metropolitan area as a whole --
15 this is insufficient. Every neighborhood
16 that this project goes through is an
17 environmental justice community and it
18 requires different data than a group data
19 set.

20 HAL DINGERINK: Thank you. Okay.
21 The next three folks are David Palenshus,
22 John Mohlis and John Felton. All right.
23 Robert Ross.

24 ROBERT ROSS: My name is Robert
25 Ross, 1111 West 22nd Street, Vancouver.

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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