

00001

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING DRAFT EIS
PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

RED LION HOTEL
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

00110

1 most expensive alternative, but it's the
2 only alternative that gets the traffic --
3 the commuter traffic off of the freeways.
4 It's got its own separate place to go and
5 it's not part of the congestion. It's
6 part of the solution, not part of the
7 problem. If you use buses, you will have
8 to deal with the rest of traffic.

9 HAL DINGERINK: Thank you. Okay.

10 WALT KEENEY: My name is Walt
11 Keeney. My main business address is 521
12 521 North First Avenue, Arcadia,
13 California. My Vancouver address is 2901
14 Northwest Old River Road in Vancouver.

15 The reason I bring up California --
16 this goes to the light rail and everything
17 I have been hearing tonight -- Number one,
18 people say 7000 to 8000 people a day
19 riding light rail from Vancouver across
20 the river. Believe me, that will make an
21 impact in traffic. 7000 or 8000 cars a
22 day off the bridge is a lot of cars.

23 About two years ago we had a transit
24 strike in L.A. There is a Metro line,
25 rail line that runs from Pasadena all the



00111

1 way to L.A. that carries between 7000 to
2 10,000 people a day -- or it was at that
3 time. The transit workers went on strike
4 and traffic -- commute time from Pasadena
5 to downtown L.A. immediately increased by
6 15 to 20 minutes each way every day. It
7 stayed that way until actually about six
8 months after the strike was over when
9 people got some confidence and went back
10 to riding the rail and traffic went back.

11 Now there is 12,000 people that ride
12 it, and that's 12,000 cars a day off that
13 route between Pasadena and L.A. and it
14 does make one big difference.

15 So when you are looking at light
16 rail, you can't just look at the cost of
17 the light rail and the fairs you get from
18 ridership -- is the economic benefit. The
19 economic benefit goes to everybody that is
20 out there commuting -- and save time,
21 reduce commuting costs, reduce -- and
22 especially today, reduce gasoline
23 consumption and reduce air pollution.

24 As far as economic development goes,
25 I see that down in that area. There

00112

1 again, I have to go back to what I know
2 and that is Southern California and what I
3 have seen happen there.

4 All along the goal line route as it
5 exists today and the projected goal line
6 route from Pasadena to the Ontario
7 airport, there has been -- either economic
8 development going on in the form of
9 transit villages -- there is 200 unit
10 apartments going up, literally built
11 straddling the goal line tracks in
12 Pasadena and South Pasadena. There are
13 mixed residential and commercial units,
14 commercial on the bottom and retail and
15 residential above, and they are full.

16 It's a very popular way to live for a
17 lot of people. They like to -- they get
18 up in the morning, they go downstairs,
19 jump on the train and go to their job in
20 downtown L.A. It works.

21 I am really a proponent of adding
22 light rail as part of this project. I
23 think it will do a tremendous amount of
24 good for Clark County and for the
25 Vancouver area.

00113

1 And as far as the bridges go, I say
2 let's get it built. It can't happen too
3 soon.

4 Thank you.

5 HAL DENERINK: Thank you. I
6 think that concludes our public hearing
7 this evening.

8 Obviously, there is an awful lot of
9 information in the DEIS and there appears
10 to be a lot of misinformation floating
11 around. I want to comment about one of
12 those.

13 It's our assessment that there will
14 be a vote on whether or not light rail
15 comes -- okay -- not just on the funding
16 for it, but that there will be a vote.
17 Okay.

18 So I thank you all. Let me point out
19 to you that tomorrow evening there
20 continues to be -- there's another one of
21 these across the river that Henry is going
22 to take the lead on running. And we'll
23 continue to take input all the way until
24 the 2nd of July, so thank you and good
25 evening.

00115

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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