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COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING DRAFT EIS  
PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

RED LION HOTEL  
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

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1 By the earlier of the those dates,  
2 Clark County could very well have over one  
3 million residents. We are representing  
4 those tonight too; one million residents  
5 who are depending on us to make the right  
6 decision this year, and that decision  
7 should be to bring light rail across the  
8 new I-5 bridge.

9 Will our leaders today have the  
10 resolve to look 50 or 100 years into the  
11 future in the same way their counterparts  
12 did 50 and 100 years ago when the existing  
13 spans were built at great cost.

14 I'm a yea-sayer and I say yes. Thank  
15 you.

16 HAL DENGERINK: Thank you. Okay.  
17 So we are going to switch out here again.  
18 This time with Rory Bowman, Tadd Hess and  
19 Joe Cortright. Okay. David Palenshus.



20 DAVID PALENSHUS: My name is David  
21 Palenshus. I live at 17111 Northwest 69th  
22 Avenue, Ridgefield, Washington.

23 I am a retired Commander of the  
24 United States Navy. I have seen a lot of  
25 transportation systems from Hong Kong to

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1 London, to North Korea to Australia and  
2 the gentleman that just proceeded me, I  
3 can only echo his comments in terms of  
4 our own Nation's Capitol -- Chicago, lived  
5 there; New York, lived there; Los Angeles,  
6 lived there.

7 Folks, it's time to wake up. We've  
8 spent 13,000 people's salaries and over  
9 500 events. I think the politics of today  
10 are saying, America, we don't want it the  
11 same way anymore. It's time to get on  
12 with it.

13 So I suggest we move forward. We can  
14 handle some of the naysayers comments and  
15 conventions, but delaying and more public  
16 commentary -- it's out there. If you are  
17 dedicated to the project, I say look at  
18 it.

19 So I echo, let's move on with the  
20 schedule and move forward. The vision is  
21 increased congestion, generally adverse  
22 conditions if nothing else is done.

23 I would ask where the industrial base  
24 50 to 35 years ago -- light rail, looking  
25 at the figure of 7000 people, that's just

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1 a step. If you look at it when you meet  
2 the industrial base 30 to 50 years from  
3 now, it's a step forward to bringing the  
4 Port of Ridgefield and the Port of  
5 Vancouver into the mix of transportation.  
6 I would much rather see more boxes on rail  
7 than I would down the I-5 and 205  
8 corridor.

9 Americans generally don't  
10 overwhelmingly adopt mass rail over their  
11 personal cars. And I think the increase  
12 in prices now are having people start to  
13 look. And this is the last year we are  
14 going to see a lot of SUVs and boats and  
15 so forth out on the freeways because  
16 people have had it.

17 It's not going to get cheaper. The  
18 cost effectiveness of rail, whether it's  
19 light rail or heavy rail is proven in high  
20 population centers and I think we look at  
21 those and we learn from those and move  
22 forward.

23 I prefer -- my preferred alternative  
24 is replacement with rail -- whether it be  
25 light rail or heavy rail. I caution us

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1 not to spend three nickels for spending  
2 one dime.

3 Thank you for your comments.

4 HAL Dengerink: Thank you. John  
5 Mohlis.

6 JOHN Mohlis: Thank you. Good  
7 evening. My name is John Mohlis. I'm the  
8 Executive Secretary Treasurer for the  
9 Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council,  
10 which is an umbrella organization for  
11 approximately 20,000 union building  
12 workers in Southwest Washington and  
13 Northwest Oregon. My address is 3535  
14 Southeast 86th Avenue in Portland.

15 Our Council is on record in support  
16 of a replacement bridge with light rail.  
17 We believe that that is the right project  
18 for our region, for our economy and for  
19 the environment.

20 In my job with the building trades, I  
21 am contacted from time to time by existing  
22 businesses that are considering expansion  
23 or by businesses from outside of our area  
24 that are considering relocating here, and  
25 one of their main concerns always is how

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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.

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