

1 **MR. HEWITT:** Thank you.

2 John Russell.

3 **MR. RUSSELL:** Hello, my name is John

4 Russell. I rode my bike all the way here from my
5 apartment at 3100 Southeast 168th Avenue, Apartment

6 305, Vancouver, Washington 98683. That's way over

7 on the other side of 205, for those of you who don't

8 know. I rode my bike over here. I crossed over the

9 bridge. Firsthand experience, the -- basically,

10 abysmal bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There

11 was a case where I had to pass some pedestrians on

12 the bridge; very frightening, I would imagine for

13 them. There simply isn't enough room.

14 So, first of all, I would strongly implore

15 more safe and world-class bicycle facilities to be

16 considered, especially as it concerns with the --

17 the interchanges on Hayden Island and around -- in

18 the entire project area. That's probably my least

19 favorite part of my -- my bike traveling over the

20 bridge here.

21 And, also, with the interchange, I'd like

22 to bring up the problem with safety. If you go

23 downstairs, you can see on some of the boards;

24 you've got the crashes per mile. And you notice

25 they're not on the bridge themselves; they're with

1 the interchanges. And so, first of all, I think the
2 interchanges are one of the biggest safety issues.
3 I believe that they should be replaced with safer
4 alternatives that also favor bike and pedestrian
5 traffic. And, also, I believe that the bike traffic
6 maybe should just be able to pass right over Hayden
7 Island.

8 I currently do not support any of the --
9 the alternatives, as they do not have the proper mix
10 of bicycle and pedestrian facilities with the proper
11 accommodation of traffic.

12 The closest one that I would support would
13 be the supplemental bridge with light rail.
14 However, one of my main problems with that is the
15 lack of pedestrian and bike facilities. I believe
16 that additional facilities should be incorporated.
17 In addition to the cantilever addition on the
18 original bridges, I believe that pedestrian
19 facilities should also be included on the bridge
20 with light rail so that people traveling through
21 will not have to deal with the interchanges on the
22 island themselves, and will be able to connect to
23 light rail.

24 And so, mainly, I would just like to see
25 improved bicycle facilities on this bridge,

1 incorporating what other people have said; peak oil,
2 all that. More people are definitely going to be
3 shifting to bikes and transit, and I would like to
4 see all of that incorporated. In addition, tolls
5 and whatnot, that would encourage people to make a
6 smart choice. Thank you for allowing me to speak
7 tonight.

8 **MR. HEWITT:** Thank you.

9 Next at this table (indicated) will be
10 Doug Klotz, J.R. Robertson, and Temple Lentz. And
11 the next speaker is Connie Wallace.

12 **MS. WALLACE:** Thank you. My name is
13 Connie Wallace. I live in Vancouver. I live off of
14 63rd Street, and I work in downtown Portland.

15 I moved here five years ago. I take the
16 light rail from (inaudible) Center, and I enjoy that
17 ride. And because I leave my house at 5:00 in the
18 morning, it only takes me seven minutes to cross the
19 bridge. However, I pay for it on the return home,
20 because I get back at 4:00, and so, I'm caught in
21 the traffic on the way back, and it usually takes me
22 about a half-hour to get home.

23 The -- the plan that I prefer would be the
24 new wider bridge with some form of mass transit.
25 And my first choice would be bus rail rather than