

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

2 So the three of you can step away. And
3 let's see here. Ron Swaren? And I don't know of
4 anyone else who's signed up to speak. Okay. Then
5 we'll go to Sharon. Are you on my list?

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** We just signed up
7 outside.

8 **MR. HEWITT:** Okay. We'll get that. Let's
9 start with Sharon.

10 **MS. NASSET:** Okay. For the record, my
11 name is Sharon Nasset. My address is 1113 North
12 Baldwin. And I would like to say, "Thank you for
13 seating me with these two gentlemen." Lovely to see
14 you guys, again.

15 As -- as you know, they're talking about
16 this has been studied since 1977. And it actually
17 hasn't been studied since 1977. It's been strong-
18 armed since 1977. Had it been studied since 1977,
19 we would have a room full of data. First
20 off, I would like to talk about funding. New
21 Start's transit dollars become available every year
22 in August. Every year in August. For those people
23 that think it's only happening this August -- every
24 year. New Start's dollars for transit can be light
25 rail, bus rapid transit, a bus in HOV lanes, or

1 commuter rail. Commuter rail from Battleground and
2 commuter rail from Ridgefield coming down, creating
3 a new bridge that freights can use later and going
4 into Swan Island and connecting with MAX would give
5 jobs on the other side, would take care of
6 bottlenecks that we have with the rail system there,
7 and can be dealt with.

8 The other issue is the reauthorization.
9 That is the money for actually building the bridge.
10 That's 18 months away for the year 2010. People are
11 interested in being in the authorization origination
12 document when the document first comes out. That
13 does not mean in 18 months if we do not have our
14 names in that document at that time that we will not
15 be able to put it in during the seven-year period.
16 It can be added in at any time. We're a corridor of
17 significance. There will not be a problem with
18 that. For those that think we're not going to get
19 any money unless we move ahead now, there's
20 confusion.

21 The other thing is, is stopping now and
22 taking a look at the NEPA process. Opening it up
23 and getting a really good study to going to save us
24 money in the long run, because we all know lawsuits
25 are going to happen, otherwise. We can avoid those.

1 Not that I don't want to feed the lawyers in the
2 crowd, but let's get over it. They've gotten enough
3 over the years.

4 The other thing is Metro has weighed in
5 several times for (inaudible) in the last couple of
6 years. They have been ignored. I have been at work
7 sessions where they ask Mr. Burkhalter (phonetic),
8 "What happens to all these things we keep sending
9 over to CRC? We never get anything back. Are they
10 ignoring us?" And he says, "Well..." And that is
11 the issue. They feel ignored, and have been. Had
12 their ideas actually been thoroughly studied
13 according to the NEPA process, we could put it up
14 and we could look at it. The same with all these
15 other options. A thorough study would mean we could
16 actually take out the documents and look at it.

17 If you feel it's been studied, then show
18 us the thorough studied documents required under the
19 NEPA law. Thank you.

20 **MR. HEWITT:** Jim Karlock.

21 **MR. KARLOCK:** My name is Jim Karlock. I
22 live in Northeast Portland, and I drove my gas
23 guzzler here.

24 I am, however, contemplating, due to the
25 price of gas, changing to another car. And that