


1 And I'm probably not saying all the things I
2 would've liked to say today in defense of it.
3 Building light rail is part of the project. But I
4 see my time's up. So, thank you.

5 **MR. HEWITT:** Thank you.

6 Joel Batterman.

7 **MR. BATTERMAN:** Hi. My name's Joel
8 Batterman, and I live at -- currently at 6211
9 Southeast 43rd, 97206.

10 **MR. HEWITT:** Could you speak up, please?

11 **MR. BATTERMAN:** Sorry. I came to Portland
12 pretty recently from the Detroit area, which, over
13 the years has been quite steadfast in believing that
14 adding highway capacity is the solution for 
15 relieving congestion. And over the years, of
16 course, that's just been a quite disastrous policy.
17 I don't want to bad-mouth all the work that people
18 have done on this project. Certainly, mass transit
19 and the bike/pedestrian improvements would be
20 welcome. But I just think that the additional auto
21 traffic would cancel out those gains. And I don't
22 think I can support any of the alternatives
23 proposed. Just because, in the long run, adding
24 freeway capacity to relieve congestion just isn't a
25 viable strategy. That's a lesson that -- it's taken

1 us -- all of us a long time to learn. But I think
2 we're on the verge of a real paradigm shift in our -
3 - just the way that we think about transportation in
4 this country. And that's a shift of the climate
5 change. And fuel prices are, I think, going to
6 force -- it won't happen overnight, but it will
7 happen and perhaps more quickly than any of us
8 expect.

9 And projects like this, I think, are just
10 simply not going to be on the table in ten or twenty
11 years; certainly not by the end of my lifetime. And
12 I just don't believe we should build anything now
13 that we will perhaps very soon regret. Thank you.

14 **MR. HEWITT:** Thank you. I think that
15 covers everybody who has signed up to speak. Is
16 there anyone else who signed up to speak? If not,
17 I'd like to thank everyone for taking time to
18 provide us with your input on this important set of
19 issues for the region.

20 Please remember that written comments on
21 the Draft EIS and 4(f) Evaluations may be submitted
22 through July 1 to the Project office, or online at
23 columbiarivercrossing.org, or to anybody around here
24 in a blue shirt. Thank you for coming.

25 **THE COURT REPORTER:** Off the record, sir?

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