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**To:** [Columbia River Crossing;](#)  
**CC:** [pat.campbell@ci.vancouver.wa.us;](mailto:pat.campbell@ci.vancouver.wa.us;)  
**Subject:** Input  
**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2008 8:41:10 AM  
**Attachments:**

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Project members,

I have submitted a number of comments in the past and it continues to concern me that not enough has been discussed or disclosed about who has the final "word" on the approval of this project and who or how the project will be paid for. Yes, I do see some figures and text about Federal, State, Local funds and tolling, but nowhere in your documents to see anything discussing voter approval on all or part of the project. Whether the funds come from the Federal, State or Local government, ultimately the citizenry will pay the bill.



In a climate where voters everywhere are concerned and questioning how their dollars are being spent, this issue is even greater in the City of Vancouver where the Vancouver Mayor and City Council have continued to make questionable investment, revenue and expense decisions. A prime example are decisions to "give away" the City's assets so "certain" developments can begin and/or be built in the downtown area of the City of Vancouver only. Yes, there have been a "few" parks built in the other parts of the City, but one can't help but wonder if this to "appease" the citizens rather than truly consider the needs of the entire City.

During the time that the CRC Project has been in existence, the City of Vancouver has continued to grow through annexation and, because of the annexations, the new and old citizens for the City have seen their taxes continue to grow. However, the areas of the City East of the downtown Vancouver area are suffering. One example is City streets are breaking down. Residential neighborhoods are seeing large weed-filled cracks in their streets. As a Clark County/City of Vancouver resident in the same home for 29 years, the streets in my neighborhood have been "sealed" twice during the time. During a lengthy construction project that took about 3 years to complete, Burton Road/28th Street (25th Street off Andresen Road to NE 112th Ave.), my neighborhood streets were used by large construction vehicles/trucks with the promise by City Staff that our streets would receive the maintenance necessary to repair the damage and wear made by the construction equipment. THAT HAS NEVER HAPPEND!

This is only one small example of the type of "promises" that have been made to City County residents in SW Washington. With this history in mind, it is in the best interests of the Columbia River Project and the future of SW Washington and Washington State to bring the approval of the Project, with all costs, to the ballot. I am fearful that if this does not happen future needs of the City of Vancouver, Clark County, SW Washington and Washington State, specifically, may feel negative "fallout" for a long time to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input.

Sincerely,  
Lavetta Gustafson

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