



BUCKMAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Oregon Department of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
METRO
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
City of Portland
City of Vancouver

Dear Friends,

This letter is to share the thoughts of the Buckman Community Association with the decision makers for the Columbia River Crossing (CRC).

The Columbia River Crossing will be the single largest public works project in the history of the Pacific Northwest. It will determine what the future transportation systems in the Portland/Vancouver area will be. There are a range of options being considered for the Columbia River Crossing, from "no build" to building a new bridge with 12 traffic lanes plus light rail, with the 12-lane build-out seeming to be the most likely choice.

But the regional context is changing dramatically, even as the CRC decision is being considered.

- The price of gas and diesel has skyrocketed since the CRC was first proposed, and shows no signs of returning to historic lower prices. The number of cars crossing the I-5 bridge has already dropped recently. The CRC may be building highway capacity that will never be needed.
- The impact of global warming is becoming more and more apparent and Oregon and Washington have resolved to cut future carbon emissions. But the auto-oriented CRC proposals will increase, not cut carbon emissions.

The 12-lane bridge is proposed to be funded by charging tolls. Perhaps charging tolls on the existing bridge would validate the concept that there are enough drivers willing to pay the toll to justify increasing the number of lanes. But it may also show that existing congestion can be relieved and the need for new lanes reduced just by charging tolls now.

The CRC decision is being rushed to meet a deadline for Federal funds for highway construction. But a new administration in Washington D.C. may make it easier to receive Federal funds for alternatives to highway construction.

For all the reasons cited above, we ask that the Columbia River Crossing project not proceed with a major increase in the automobile capacity of the I-5 bridge at this time.

Respectfully,

Buckman Community Association Board