

**From:** [NoEmailProvided@columbiarivercrossing.org](mailto:NoEmailProvided@columbiarivercrossing.org)  
**To:** [Columbia River Crossing;](#)  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Comment from CRC DraftEIS Comments Page  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2008 9:05:23 AM  
**Attachments:**

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Home Zip Code:

Work Zip Code:

Person:

Works in the project area

Owns a business in the project area



Person commutes in the travel area via:

Bicycle

Car or Truck

1. In Support of the following bridge options:

Supplemental Bridge

2. In Support of the following High Capacity Transit options:

Light Rail between Vancouver and Portland

3. Support of Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail by location:

Lincoln Terminus: Yes

Kiggins Bowl Terminus: No

Mill Plain (MOS) Terminus: Yes

Clark College (MOS) Terminus: No

Contact Information:

First Name:

Last Name:

Title:

E-Mail:

Address:

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Comments:

my concerns about light rail. I understand the decision is leaning toward 2 way on Broadway. Where as this would be great for me because I own a building on Broadway and my property becomes more valuable, (although I would have to change the use to retail - which opens up a lot more potential renters) I really think Broadway is a huge mistake. Selfishly great for me but huge mistake for uptown and downtown. I believe this for the following reasons.

1. Light rail benefits retailers- 1000 eyes going past your business, we know all light rail areas increase in retail for this reason. Think interstate etc.
2. Broadway has no retail - it is a few offices most of which don't have parking, but mostly, it consists of medium density housing. Lots of 6-18 plexes with no parking. These folks are presently parking on the street in front of their apartments. You put light rail down Broadway, all the parking goes away, and they will be parking in the neighborhoods and on Main street.
3. I am concerned that a vocal minority are significantly influencing the decision making process. These folks are my friends and I care for them a great deal. However, their biggest concern is making it through the 6 week construction period. (I do completely empathize with them) The organizers of the petition signing are small business owners that do not have the reserves to make it through the 6 weeks of decreased business during the construction on the street in front of their stores. As you know it is standard business practices to have 6 months worth of reserves. Secondly statistically speaking, if they don't have 6 weeks of reserves, the likelihood of them being around in 5 years is very small. So we are making major economic decisions based on a small minority of shop owners who do not own the property and most likely will not be here in 5 years.
4. My biggest concern is for the viability and revitalization of our DT and Uptown areas. I attended the meeting when the woman from Gresham spoke about this exact scenario. They voted to not have light rail going through the Gresham downtown and the downtown is dying.
5. All the statistics I have read show increased vitality and significant increase in commerce on the street that a light rail is built. It increases property values, (all great for me) brings in more upscale retailers which give people more reason to come to Vancouver's core district.

In summary, It is my humble opinion that the powers that be should take a stand and look at the big picture long term and support light rail down Main street. Yes, as in all projects like this, there will be casualties this is very unfortunate and breaks my heart for those I know won't make it. However, although it is to my benefit, I am more concerned about the greater good of the downtown and the uptown, and what will happen if light

rail goes down Broadway. Not only will our Main street retail die, but there is also an impact on the surrounding neighborhoods due to the parking issue on Broadway.