


From: [Steve Sekel](#)
To: [Columbia River Crossing:](#)
CC: 
Subject: Comments on project funding
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2008 1:26:20 PM
Attachments:

Dear Columbia River Crossing Task Force representative,

I would like to make two comments concerning the proposed funding of the project:

First on tolling, I have no problem with a “tax” added to pay for a service. I have a big problem with a tax placed on a service that is actually a revenue generator for a totally non-related service. I recently worked for a company headquartered outside of New York City. All of the bridges which cross the Hudson river have tolls, stated to pay for “the maintenance of the bridge”. However, with the high toll rate (\$6) and heavy traffic, some bridges are generating in excess of one million dollars in toll revenue per day! Clearly a vast majority of this revenue is actually being funneled into areas not related to bridge maintenance.

I would like to see both the State of Oregon and the State of Washington draft laws which state that the toll revenue be used exclusively for repayment of any construction bonds and the ongoing maintenance of the bridge and feeder roadways. Audits at the end of the year should be used to adjust toll rates as needed to meet this criteria.

Second – The State of Oregon applies state income tax to Washington residents who work in Oregon. The tax rate is the full rate which Oregon residents pay, despite the fact that Washington residents who work in Oregon utilize only a fraction of the services which Oregon residents do. This has never been fair taxation. Since many of these Washington state residents commute to work over the I-5 bridge, there is an opportunity for some equalization. I believe that a portion of the Oregon state income tax paid by Washington residents who are employed in the Oregon Tri-county area (area serviced by Metro), be diverted from the Oregon general fund, and applied directly to the funding of the new bridge, and its ongoing maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Steve Sekel,
Camas, WA