


From: [Don Benton](#)
To: [Columbia River Crossing;](#) 
CC: ["Don Benton"; "Lohr, Brian";](#)
Subject: Official comment to the EIS
Date: Monday, June 30, 2008 8:24:23 PM
Attachments:

I would like this statement on the record for the EIS hearing:

The density, current or projected, does not justify the cost of a light rail system across the river between Portland and Vancouver. It will never be efficient in moving more people than through lanes on the road will be. No modern (last 15 years) light rail system ever has, even in much denser regions. Bus rapid transit is what works and works best. Especially when population density levels will never reach the necessary level to make light rail efficient. It is also the most flexible as needs change over time. It will be a monumental waste of public funding (tax dollars) for a false promise of congestion relief when additional busses and lanes will do so much more to move people and freight quickly through the region (especially freight).

Light rail ignores the importance of freight mobility as there will be no benefit to the highway system from the construction of light rail and trucks use the highway system. We need a bridge, but not with light rail as the mass transit component. Dedicated bus lanes are less costly and more flexible. This , with additional lanes for auto and truck traffic on the bridge as well as on both North and South approaches to the bridge, will dramatically increase traffic flow and freight mobility.

Please do not fall for the false promises of light rail.

Sincerely,

Don Benton
State Senator
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