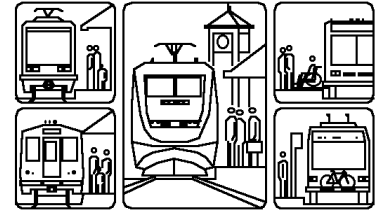


Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates

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MEMORANDUM

To: **Heather Gundersen**
From: **Fred Nussbaum, Strategic Planner**
Date: **July 1, 2008**
Re: **AORTA Documents for Inclusion in Columbia River Crossing DEIS Comments**

Attached electronically and on a compact disk to be mailed under separate cover is a folder containing the most significant correspondence between **AORTA** and the Columbia River Crossing Task force and its staff since 2005. This covers the period during which the Task Force was developing alternatives in preparation for the CRC Project DEIS and these communications should be part of the record, if not already included. They provide input on the development of CRC alternatives. The attachment and CD also contain a folder of documents prepared or contributed to by **AORTA** for SmarterBridge.org, a loose coalition of organizations and individuals concerned about the Columbia Crossing. Finally, the attachment and CD contain a third folder with documents supporting the arguments of both **AORTA** and SmarterBridge.org. A summary of most of these documents follows.

We request that all of the above documents be entered into the DEIS record.

The document name are keyed as thusly: yymmdd, followed by a letter within hyphens indicating the source; A = AORTA, C = CRC and S = SmarterBridge.

A. **AORTA Correspondence** (*AORTA Correspondence folder*)

Please note that some of the attached correspondence is not specifically identified as from **AORTA**, but came from **AORTA** director Jim Howell or Fred Nussbaum. Both Jim Howell and I have been designated by the **AORTA** Board to be our primary point persons on this project. All of the attached correspondence should be considered official correspondence from our organization, whether identified as from **AORTA** or not.

1. A 5/4/05 memo from Jim Howell to the CRC Task Force re: **Keeping I-5 on the Existing Columbia River Bridges** (4 pp.) including a transportation plan drawn on a B&W photo and a concept plan for redevelopment of the Vancouver waterfront. The proposal included a multimodal supplemental bridge for light rail, bikes/peds and local traffic adjacent to I-5 and a possible second local traffic crossing near the railroad bridge.
Filename: 050504-A-KeepingI-5onExistingBridges.pdf
2. A 4/11/06 memo from Jim Howell to the CRC Task Force re: **AORTA's critique of the Columbia River Crossing Draft Components Step "A" Screening Report (March 22, 2006)** (4 pp.). Rebutts in detail the erroneous rejection of the Non-Freeway Multi-Modal Columbia River Crossing and Commuter Rail in that report.
Filename: 060411-A-RebuttaltoScreeningReport(R).pdf
3. A 9/26/06 white paper from Jim Howell pointing out there are numerous seismically vulnerable structures on I-5 besides the Columbia bridges and that I-205 provides an alternate route. Also points out the railroad bridge is equally vulnerable and has no alternate route, while carrying much more freight tonnage. Finally, the local supplemental bridge, constructed to seismic standards, could provide a connection for priority traffic.
Filename: 060926-A-SystemicApproachToTheCrossing.pdf
4. An 11/8/06 white paper entitled, **What a Comprehensive Columbia Crossing package built around a new Multi-modal Bridge would do.** (Not on **AORTA** letterhead, but showing Jim

Howell as author, 5 pp., including colored transportation plan on B&W photo).

Filename: 061108-A-AORTAs11-8-06ProposedAlt.pdf

5. A 11/23/06 white paper entitled, **What a Comprehensive Columbia Crossing package built around a new Multi-modal Bridge would do**, which is an update to the 11/8/06 proposal described in item A.3 above, (Not on **AORTA** letterhead, but showing Jim Howell as author, 4 pp.). Includes the same plan as the one accompanying the 11/8/06 proposal in item A.4 above.
Filename: 061123-A-WhatAORTAAIts.pdf
6. CRC responded on 11/27/06 with a memo to the Task force re: **Jim Howell Proposal** (1 pp.). Had as attachment Jim Howell's 11/23/06 revised proposal with the original (11/8/06) graphic described in item A.5 above.
Filename: 061127-C-CRCRespToAORTA11-8-06Alt.pdf
7. An 11/29/06 memo from Jim Howell to the CRC Task Force re: **CRC Environmental Impact Study** (1 pp.), indicating that an alternative that retains the existing bridges needs to be studied in the Environmental Impact phase. It also summarizes AORTA's proposal (11/8/06, 11/23/06), described in items 4 above and 5 above.
Filename: 061129-A-MemoReCRCEIS.pdf
8. A 1/2/07 memo from Jim Howell to the CRC re: **Response to Nov. 27 Memorandum from staff** (3 pp.), with attachments listed as follows (not included in electronic file):
 - a) 11-27-06 Memo to: Columbia River Crossing Task Force From: Doug Ficco and John Osborn (item A.6 above)
 - b) 11-29-06 Memo To: Columbia river Crossing Task Force From: Jim Howell. (Item A.7 above)
 - c) Multi-modal Bridge Option Site Plan. Jim Howell, 11-08-06, plan included with item A.4 above.*Filename: 070102-A-RespToCRC11-27-07Assess.pdf*
9. A 1/20/07 position paper entitled **AORTA's Position on The Columbia River Crossing Project** (2 pp.), unsigned and not on AORTA letterhead, that takes the CRC to task for only having a single big bridge alternative and reviews AORTA's analysis of the problem and proposed bundle of solutions.
Filename: 070120-A-AORTAsPositiononSingleBridgeAlt.pdf
10. A 1/23/07 Memo from CRC Staff re: **Assessment of Jim Howell's Proposed Concept (Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates)** (pp. 20 including attachments). Stars with 6 pages of staff comments on the AORTA's (11/8/06, 11/23/06) plan plus annotations by staff on a proposal plan redrawn on a larger, clearer base by Jim Howell at the request of the CRC. Includes as attachments:
 - a). 1/16/07 memo from Osborn and Ficco to the Task Force re: **Letter from AORTA** (1 pp.)
 - b) 1/2/07 memo from Jim Howell re: **Response to Nov. 27, 2006 Memorandum from staff**. discussed in item A.8 above.
 - c) 11/29/06 memo from Jim Howell re: **CRC Environmental Impact Study** described in item A.7 above. (1 pp.)
 - d) 11/27/06 memo from Ficco and Osborn re: **Jim Howell Proposal** described in item A.6 above. (1 pp.)
 - e) 11/23/06 update to the AORTA proposal described in item A.5 above. (5 pp.)
 - f) CRC Project Purpose and Need statement.*Filename: 070123-C-CRCAssessOfAORTA11-8-06Proposal.pdf*
11. A 2/5/07 memo from Jim Howell re: **Public transit in the CRC Corridor** (4 pp.) questioning whether the transit networks modeled provided adequate levels of service. Two attachments containing figures from the **Draft Components Step A Screening Report** are included in this

electronic document.

Filename: 070205-A-070205-A-PublicTransitInTheCrcCorrid.pdf

12. A 3/22/07 memo from Jim Howell to the 4th Alternative Subcommittee re: **Recommendation for a Fourth Alternative** promoting the AORTA alternative. Three attachments are referred to and are included in this electronic document:

a) **Critique of the CRC Staff Assessment of AORTA's Proposed Nov. 8, 2006 Concept for A Columbia River Crossing Emphasizing Public Transportation (keyed to Map)**, includes point by point responses to staff's 1/23/07 comments described in item A.10 above. The responses are numbered and keyed to staff's annotations on the AORTA plan. (1 pp.)

Described in item A.13 below.

b) The staff annotated plan, with annotations now numbered by Jim Howell.(1.pp.)

c) AORTA proposed bridge cross-sections. (1 pp.)

Filename: 070322-A-FinalMemoTo4thAltSubcommitt.pdf

13. A 3/22/07 document entitled **Critique of the CRC Staff Assessment of AORTA's Proposed Nov. 8, 2006 Concept for A Columbia River Crossing Emphasizing Public Transportation (keyed to Map)** (2 pp.) that is not on AORTA letterhead, but lists Jim Howell at the bottom. It was an attachment to the 3/22/97 memo described in item A.12 above. It does not specifically identify the document being critiqued, but the map is the one annotated by staff in its **Assessment** memo of 1/23/07 described in item 10 above. Jim Howell now added numbers to the map annotations to tie them in with the points in his one page critique outline.

Filename: 070322-A-AORTArespToCRCStaffAssessment(Map&Key).pdf

14. A 5/13/08 outline by Fred Nussbaum on behalf of AORTA for its portion of the SmarterBridge.org presentation. This outline summarizes AORTA's position on the CRC components.

Filename: 080513-A-FredsTopicsSmarterBridgePPTSlideOutline.pdf

15. A 5/29/08 white paper by Fred Nussbaum entitled **Five Questions Concerning the I-5 Mega-Bridge Proposal and Its Proponents**. It is a series of questions about the CRC process and our analysis.

Filename: 080529-A-Nussbaum-FiveQuestionsReCRC_forOPB_.pdf

16. Testimony given by Fred Nussbaum on 6/24/08 on behalf of AORTA before the CRC Task Force regarding issues with the CRC DEIS process and requesting halting the selection of the LPA until a Supplemental DEIS is undertaken to answer significant questions raised, not only by citizen groups, but also major decision-making bodies and advisory groups like Metro, Planning Commission, Sustainable Development Commission, and the City of Portland.

Filename: 080624-A-FNTestimonyToCRCTaskForce6-24-08.pdf

17. A log of key email communications between Fred Nussbaum and CRC staff, regarding requested technical information and the lack of timely response. The last entry is 6/26/08, mainly because I went out of town on the 27th and have only had intermittent access to the internet at our vacation home. Staff did send me on 6/30/08 origin-destination they had on hand, but by then it was too late for us to analyze completely.

Filename: 080628-A-FNemailCorrespondenceW-CRCLog.pdf

B. SmarterBridge.org Documents (*DocumentsPreparedForSmarterBridgeTeam folder*)

Six documents

C. Supporting Documents (*Supporting Documents folder*)

Eight documents