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Columbia River Crossing

Vancouver's Downtown Association's Locally Preferred Alternative for CRC

After much consideration, VDA stands strongly in favor of a replacement bridge with a light rail minimum operating segment that ends at Clark College with configured couplets on Broadway and Washington. We strongly urge the extension of Main Street to the waterfront as well.

Vancouver's Downtown Association has a significant interest in issues that affect the development, livability, vitality, accessibility, potential for diversification, and connectivity of Vancouver's greater downtown area. We realize that wise choices in transportation investment, both within the city and outside the city, impact the movement of goods and services, downtown residents, visitors and consumers. We believe wise decisions made today provide great benefit for generations to come.

VDA has been an active participant in the discussions surrounding the choices before our region regarding the optimum mode to service traffic crossing the Columbia River. We have done our due diligence by gathering data, evaluating and debating the options. Without question, the decisions made on this issue have the potential to streamline commerce and leave a much improved transportation system for our residents. This decision, while bold in some ways, is appropriate for the transportation system we will need in the future.

Briefly, the benefits of adopting our position include:

Safety

- significant safety improvement by thoughtfully designing ingress and egress lane changes with maximum safety in mind
- safety lanes for emergency needs
- safe accommodation of alternative modes of transportation such as bicycle and pedestrian
- improved sight distance
- elimination of bridge lifts which not only cost valuable time but create an unsafe condition and increase accidents.

Access

- improved access to the waterfront
- improved access from Portland to our downtown
- more commuter choices for visitors and residents to travel in and around our region
- more commuter choices for employees who work within the city
- easier movement from place to place within the city

The new bridge would protect against significant risks

- inadequate assurance of viability in the event of earthquake
A new bridge would eliminate significant economic risk and gives a more reliable platform for the movement of freight and commuters.
- existing antiquated structure not sufficient for current needs

An improved, modern image for our city

- a symbol of a modern, forward-thinking community.
As its design is developed, we are excited to see what message it can send to our visitors.
- a new bridge will be the gateway to significant development and both public and private investment on the waterfront and within the city. It will demonstrate clearly that our city has planned from a total perspective and not in small, unrelated chunks.

VDA strongly believes that these concerns need to be addressed

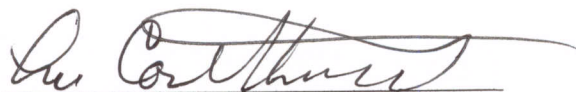
- public safety on light rail and around stations
- construction impact on existing businesses kept to a minimum
- more information on unknown impact of operating and maintenance costs
- bridge design will create significant landmark
- plans include the additional connectors to rejoin Vancouver .

We encourage the voting entities to make this decision in a timely manner allowing the Columbia River Crossing funding to be considered as a part of the next federal funding cycle.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2008.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Signed:



Lee Coulthard, Board Chair

