

From: [Doug Ballou](#)
To: [Columbia River Crossing;](#)
CC: [Ovington, Peter;](#)
Subject: RE: Columbia River Crossing Project eUpdate - June 2008
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2008 9:10:58 PM
Attachments: [NACCC Letter re CRC Project Draft EIS.pdf](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Dear CRC,

I dropped the attached NACCC comment letter on the Draft EIS in the mail to you today. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,
Doug Ballou
Chairman, NACCC



From: Columbia River Crossing [mailto:ColumbiaRiverCrossing@columbiarivercrossing.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2008 2:18 PM
To: Columbia River Crossing
Subject: Columbia River Crossing Project eUpdate - June 2008

Project eUpdate – June 19, 2008

Thank you for reading the Columbia River Crossing email update.

In this issue:

- Comment period for Draft Environmental Impact Statement ends July 1
- Task Force to recommend one alternative Tuesday

Comment period for Draft Environmental Impact Statement ends July 1

We need your input.

On May 2, 2008, the Columbia River Crossing project released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report describes the potential environmental and community effects of five project alternatives under consideration.

Comments may be submitted at any time and are considered by the project on an ongoing basis. All comments received between May 2 and July 1, 2008, are identified as Draft EIS comments and will be formally responded to

Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County

June 19, 2008

Columbia River Crossing project
700 Washington Street, Suite 300
Vancouver, WA 98660

Re: Comments on Columbia River Crossing Draft EIS

I am writing on behalf of the Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC). The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published May 2, 2008 for the Columbia River Crossing highway, bridge and transit project.

First, we wish to thank the Columbia River Crossing staff for attending NACCC meetings and providing project briefings for Clark County neighborhood leaders and presenting opportunities to give feedback and input as the project developed. Doug Ficco, Project Co-Director, attended our March 2006 meeting and this was the first of several briefings that we received by CRC staff. In addition to attending NACCC meetings, CRC staff presented at various neighborhood association meetings across Clark County.

Only a select few neighborhood leaders have read the Draft EIS cover to cover. So the nature of our comments in this letter will be general and we encourage those who have read the complete draft EIS to submit detailed comments as they deem warranted.

In our opinion we believe that the CRC project team has engaged in a rigorous analysis of the I-5 corridor transportation improvement alternatives as presented in the Draft EIS. We know that it has been an especially challenging task to gain bi-state cooperation and support from the sponsoring agencies for this project. The CRC team has attempted to gain consensus on the project from a variety of stakeholders, sponsoring agencies, organizations and individual citizens. CRC has provided many opportunities for not only our organization, but also other interested parties, to provide input on the project as it has developed over the past two years. The public outreach efforts by this team have been exceptional in our view.

The project, if built, will have significant implications for neighborhoods and businesses along the alignment and at the terminus. Due consideration should be made to those individual properties impacted by this project and when feasible make adjustments and accommodations to preserve or improve neighborhood livability. Accommodations should be made only if that change does not compromise the project in meeting the ultimate objectives in addressing the transportation problems in this corridor.

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Comments on Columbia River Crossing Draft EIS

This section of the I-5 corridor has been thoroughly studied over the past 20 years and it is time to move forward on one of the build options. If no changes are made by 2030 we will see 15 hours of congestion per day, limitations in public transit, no improvement to pedestrian and bicycle connections, no improvement in traffic safety, no improvement in river navigation and a continued risk that the existing bridges could be damaged or collapse during a major earthquake. Without any improvements congestion will get worse and the ability of major industries in our region and nationally to move freight will be significantly impaired. This would be a major constraint to future economic growth for our community that could put at risk thousands of jobs in the region over the next 20 years. In our view, some action should be taken to address the problems identified in the study.

We have no recommendation on either locally preferred alternative alignments or transit terminus. We recommend that CRC work with impacted residential, commercial property owners and sponsoring agencies to reach consensus on the locally preferred alternative, alignment and transit terminus.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments and recommendation on the Draft EIS for the Interstate 5 Columbia River Crossing Project.

Sincerely,



Doug Ballou
Chairman, NACCC
3109 NE 96th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665
(360) 573-3314

cc: Board of Clark County Commissioners
Bill Barron, County Administrator
NACCC Membership and Neighborhood Representatives

in the Final EIS, expected by fall 2009.

Visit www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org to view the Draft EIS, learn where to read a printed copy and submit your comments.

Task Force to recommend one alternative Tuesday

The 39-member panel advising the Columbia River Crossing project will meet for the last time Tuesday, June 24, to recommend which of five alternatives best meets the community's needs and helps address congestion, mobility and safety problems on I-5 between Vancouver and Portland.

The Draft EIS findings and public comment received to date will be considered by the Task Force to help the group make its recommendation. The Task Force recommendation will provide input to project sponsors when they select the formal Locally Preferred Alternative later this summer.

The Task Force meeting provides members of the public with an additional opportunity to provide oral comments. The meeting begins at 4 p.m. and public comment is scheduled to occur at 4:45 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Southwest Region office of the Washington State Department of Transportation, 11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA. The agenda and meeting materials are posted at <http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org/ProjectPartners/TFMeetingMaterials.aspx>.

Columbia River Crossing contact information

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Vancouver, WA 98660

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www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org

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