


From: [Noah Blanton](#)
To: [Draft EIS Feedback;](#) 
CC:
Subject: Columbia River Crossing
Date: Monday, June 23, 2008 8:15:33 AM
Attachments:

- Transportation is critical to our future to improve the business climate, create jobs and generate tax revenues.
- The existing I-5 bridges are not safe.
- The Columbia River Crossing Project is a smart transportation and quality of life decision that will benefit both sides of the river as our region grows.
- A replacement bridge will provide safer travel, more commuter choice, better freight mobility and an opportunity to create a sustainable, visual signature that models the environmental ethics of our region.
- Interstate 5 is a critical trade corridor and has been designated by the US Department of Transportation as one of six "Corridors of the Future" recognizing its critical importance in the transportation network and to the US economy.
- The forecast for freight volumes moving in and out of the Portland/Vancouver region are expected to double in 30 years.
- The interstate system provides overnight access for many products moving to national markets up and down the West Coast and the deep draft ports on the Columbia river provide the connection to the international markets.
- This project proposes a solution for one of the most congested segments of our nation's highway system.
- A replacement bridge will improve navigation for marine traffic on the Columbia River as well as eliminate the need for bridge lifts.
- Our economy will suffer without a strong transportation system that has the capacity to move people and goods quickly and efficiently.
- Congestion in the Portland/Vancouver area is pushing distribution centers out of the region and leading to the loss of family-wage jobs.
- Failure to invest adequately in transportation improvements will result in a potential business loss of 6,500 jobs and \$844 million annually by 2025.
- Today, congestion, a lack of highway capacity and other problems in the I-5 Bridge influence area causes an estimated 64,000 hours of delay for trucks each year, imposing significant additional costs on businesses, and ranking the Interstate Bridge as one of the worst impediments to freight mobility in the US.
- The existing bridges were not designed to carry today's traffic let alone tomorrow's. Nor

could they withstand a major seismic event. The current bridges have no safety lanes and more accidents occur within this five mile stretch than another section of I-5. Crash rates are two to four times higher than on similar facilities.

- Trade and freight movement is an important part of this region's economy and should be considered positive assets for our region because they facilitate job development and retention.
- Done right, major transportation investments like light rail lines and bridges don't just move people and goods, they help build community.

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