

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon



June 19, 2008

Columbia River Crossing
c/o Heather Gundersen, Environmental Manager
700 Washington Street, Suite 300
Vancouver, WA 98660

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Columbia River Crossing

Re: Marine Drive Interchange / Portland EXPO Center
Ref: DEIS – Ch. 2, Pg. 26

Dear Ms. Gundersen, CRC project staff, and CRC Task Force Members:

We recently received some information from the Portland EXPO Center of an alarming nature. We understand that some of the proposals for the realignment of NW Marine Drive will adversely affect EXPO which would, consequently, have a very negative impact on our events held there.

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon holds a twice-yearly Plant Sale & Garden Festival. We recently moved our event from the Washington County Fairplex to the Portland EXPO Center to take advantage of the increased facility space, parking, and easy access. [HPSO is a non-profit organization that has served the greater Portland community for 22 years. We currently have 1800 members.] Our Plant Sales & Garden Festivals draw more than 4000 people; over 120 vendors – nurseries and other garden-related businesses – participate, and more than 200 dedicated volunteers make it all happen. Our organization's financial survival depends on the success of this twice-yearly event. We take any potential impact on this event very seriously.

We, therefore, need to emphasize that any re-alignment of NW Marine Drive should minimize negative impacts on Portland EXPO. It appears to us that the diagonal and southern alignments are the worst, and we would oppose those. If it is at all possible during this planning stage to pursue alternatives such as improving the current alignment, we would support that. [Please note: we do support the proposal for a new I5 bridge. We feel that a new bridge is vital to the long-term health of our metropolitan area].

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you wish to learn more about HPSO, see our website at www.hardyplantsociety.org.

Regards,

Bruce Wakefield, President
Hardy Plant Society of Oregon

Cc: Chris Bailey, Director – Portland EXPO Center

Hardy Plant Society of Oregon: Making the world a better place through horticulture.
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