

**From:** [The Dronens](#)  
**To:** [Columbia River Crossing; metrocouncil@metro-region.org;](#)  
[Mayor Royce Pollard; trans@oregonmetro.gov;](#)  
**CC:** [letters@columbian.com;](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Latest Metro Council Recommendations -  
Concerned Vancouver Citizen  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 10:38:42 PM  
**Attachments:**

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Dear Columbia River Crossing Group, Metro Council and Mayor Pollard,

I'd like to voice my opinion after reading today's Columbian newspaper front page story about the Metro's draft resolution up for vote in July. Like most people, I don't normally write letters or get involved beyond keeping up with local issues via news outlets. I feel compelled to reach out to you all as a concerned Vancouver citizen after what I read today.

I made the commute to downtown Portland for 13 of the past 15 years via I-5 from Salmon Creek. During this time, I had firsthand experience with the long commute times, frustration and loss of quality of life that only worsened as the years went by. I tried carpooling with different jobs, alternative routes, telecommuting and non-standard work schedules. Recently, I had the good fortune of landing a job in my specialty in downtown Vancouver. As cars pile up on I-5 each morning heading south, I am so thankful that I don't have to endure that commute.

I still keep up with the development of the new bridge and discussions regarding its fate, since the pileup at the bridge impacted my life for so long. Seeing the Columbia River Crossing team take true ownership and leadership with the new crossing strategy has been very exciting to watch. The latest bridge designs, while expensive, are based on months of research, public comment, and sound strategy. We need this new bridge and it needs to happen as soon as we can possibly make it happen.

The Metro's recommendations are like a blow to the gut. Buying time with tolling and bridge updates is absurd. (Thank you Mayor Pollard for voicing this opinion.) These ideas were already explored and thrown out by a team of experts. It seems that this group of three, Liberty, Hosticka and Colette, either have

personal agendas or are out of touch with the seriousness of the current bridge situation. Why is it they can make recommendations outside the task force assigned to the job at hand?

My question to the Mayor is why is there no Clark County representation on the Metro Council, when obviously their decisions and recommendations could have such a major impact on Clark County?

I'd like to see the bridge direction stay on strategy with new construction and light rail. I thank you all for your time on this matter, and I plan to be more involved in the future.

Kind regards,  
Shawna Dronen