



From: mahpah@comcast.net
To: [Columbia River Crossing](#);
CC:
Subject: Comments on draft EIS
Date: Sunday, June 22, 2008 11:03:00 AM
Attachments:

I'm in full support of a new bridge with the inclusion of light rail. I support stopping the Clark County at the point where the inevitable toll we'll pay to cross the bridge becomes too expensive to cover our 1/3rd of the cost. That's probably at Clark College or maybe 39th St. area. However, paying \$2+_ each way for cars to cross the bridge doesn't seem like too much to me.

It seems to me that Portland's light rail is doing a decent job of giving their commuters an alternative way of getting to work. If I read the report correctly we in Clark County would be able to get on the light rail here and bypass a transfer stop in North Portland. That would be important to me as the North Portland area where the light rail exists is a well-known high crime area. I believe most of the arguments against light rail that say it will increase our crime rate can be greatly mitigated by not putting the light rail stops within existing high-crime areas (Gresham and N. Portland for instance) and building adequate security (lighting, cameras, cops, etc.) into the budget on the front end of the project.

I've lived in a few different parts of the country, principally Boston, Orange County, Ca. and here. Growing up I always felt I could get around the city of Boston via buses, trains and light rail. I liked the fact that I had different options I could use vs. just the car. They had plenty of high crime areas to pass through. I feel Portland has been using Boston as an example to follow as they build out their light rail system. Orange County, particularly the Southern part that I lived in was, and is, a joke as far as providing any type of reasonable public transportation.

Concerning the subject of private financing to cover a portion of bridge costs seems like a good way to go. I can recall being asked by some folks whether I thought they should invest in the San Joaquin Corridor roadway that now runs from Newport Beach to Rancho Santa Margarita (I think!). I wasn't sure it was a good idea then and rumor has it that those who did invest in it haven't seen the ROI they anticipated. However, investing in a part of the major road system

covering the West does seem like it could be a good way to go.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to comment on this project. I'm looking forward to being around for the ground breaking so let's get going!

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