

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

RECEIVED

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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:

B-003-001 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.

B-003-002 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.

B-003-003 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.
1930 NW Lovejoy Street, Portland, OR 97209 www.hardyplantsociety.org 503-224-5718

B-003-001

Following the publication of the DEIS in May 2008, and the selection of the LPA in July 2008, the CRC project team established a Stakeholder Group to provide feedback on the function and design of the Marine Drive interchange. This advisory group was comprised of a wide range of stakeholders with strong interests in the final design of this interchange including Metro; TriMet; the Oregon Department of Transportation; the City of Portland; the Port of Portland; trucking and distributions companies; the Audubon Society; nearby property owners or operators, such as Diversified Marine and the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission; as well as community members from the surrounding Bridgeton, Kenton, and East Columbia Neighborhoods.

As discussed in Chapter 2 (Section 2.7) of the FEIS, working with this advisory group, the CRC project team conducted studies that analyzed the traffic operations, property impacts, and potential environmental effects for a range of potential interchange designs. The Marine Drive interchange design included in the LPA that is analyzed in the FEIS was developed with this stakeholder advisory group to balance many competing interests, including freight mobility, property impacts to nearby properties, and environmental impacts. More detailed information regarding this process and its outcome is available in the Marine Drive Interchange Alignment Recommendation Process: Final Summary Report and Stakeholder Recommendation, available online in the project's electronic library at www.columbiarivercrossing.org or by contacting the project office.

B-003-002

Please see response to comment B-003-001.

B-003-003

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