

P-0214-001

Thank you for your comment. Preferences for specific alternatives or options, as expressed in comments received before and after the issuance of the DEIS, were shared with local sponsor agencies to inform decision making.

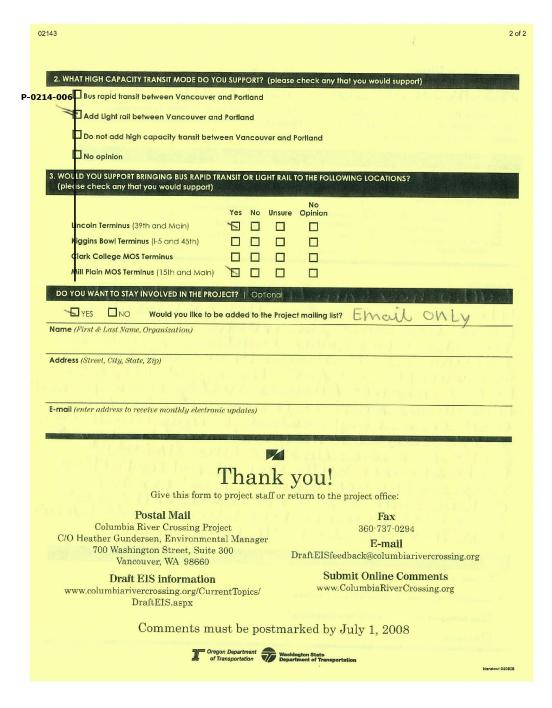
P-0214-002

High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes work when they are part of a network, and could potentially be a useful tool in the CRC area if employed as part of a regional plan. The 5-mile CRC project by itself is too short in length to provide the true benefits of HOV lanes, but should the region adopt and develop a HOV system, lanes within the bridge influence area could potentially be designated as part of the network.

The CRC project team has looked at HOV lanes and freight lanes, which are typically located on the inside freeway lane next to the barrier, as part of its technical analysis. Because about 70 percent of the vehicles enter and/or exit I-5 within the 5-mile study area, access to and from a HOV lane or freight lane could create traffic operational problems by increasing lane changes (for example, HOVs entering the freeway and needing to merge all the way to the inside lane). The results of this analysis are described in more detail in Section 3.1 of the DEIS.

P-0214-003

The proposed new lanes are add/drop lanes (i.e., lanes that connect two or more interchanges), which are used to alleviate safety issues associated with the closely spaced interchanges in the project area, and accommodate the 68 to 75% of traffic that enters and/or exits I-5 within two miles of the Columbia River. Two of the three directional add/drop lanes are primarily between Marine Drive/Hayden Island and SR 14/Mill Plain Blvd. All auxiliary lanes added within the project limits are subsequently dropped within the project limits. The project does not propose to add lanes north or south of the project limits.



P-0214-004

Following the close of the 60-day DEIS public comment period in July 2008, the CRC project's six local sponsor agencies selected light rail to Clark College as the project's preferred transit mode. These sponsor agencies, which include the Vancouver City Council, Portland City Council, C-TRAN Board, TriMet Board, RTC Board and Metro Council considered the DEIS analysis, public comment, and a recommendation from the CRC Task Force (a broad group of stakeholders representative of the range of interests affected by the project - see the DEIS Public Involvement Appendix for more information regarding the CRC Task Force) before voting on the LPA.

As illustrated in the DEIS, and summarized in Exhibit 29 (page S-33) of the Executive Summary, light rail would better serve transit riders than bus rapid transit (BRT) within the CRC project area. Light rail would carry more passengers across the river during the PM peak, result in more people choosing to take transit, faster travel times through the project area, fewer potential noise impacts, and lower costs per incremental rider than BRT. Additionally, light rail is more likely to attract desirable development on Hayden Island and in downtown Vancouver, which is consistent with local land use plans.

P-0214-005

The CRC project is working to minimize temporary impacts during construction that could impede travel in the project area. These temporary effects were described in Chapter 3 (Section 3.1) of the DEIS, and are refined in Chapter 3 (Section 3.1) of the FEIS, which also includes proposed measures to mitigate these impacts.

As the project moves into its final design phase, the CRC project team will complete a construction staging plan that will address, in greater detail, temporary closures, detours, and access on the highway and local streets affected by construction. This construction staging plan will

indicate to contractors the proposed sequencing of construction based on DOT standards. Contractors are often given the opportunity to modify the construction staging plan to maximize construction efficiency and economy, but are required to fulfill DOT performance standards for temporary impacts.

P-0214-006

Preferences for specific alternatives or options, as expressed in comments received before and after the issuance of the DEIS, were shared with local sponsor agencies to inform decision making. Following the close of the 60-day DEIS public comment period in July 2008, the CRC project's six local sponsor agencies selected a replacement I-5 bridge with light rail to Clark College as the project's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). These sponsor agencies, which include the Portland City Council, Vancouver City Council, TriMet Board, C-TRAN Board, Metro Council, RTC Board, considered the DEIS analysis, public comment, and a recommendation from the CRC Task Force when voting on the LPA.

With the LPA, new bridges will replace the existing Interstate Bridges to carry I-5 traffic, light rail, pedestrians and bicyclists across the Columbia River. Light rail will extend from the Expo Center MAX Station in Portland to a station and park and ride at Clark College in Vancouver. Pedestrians and bicyclists would travel along a wider and safer path than exists today.

For a more detailed description of highway, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements associated with the LPA, see Chapter 2 of the FEIS.