

From: NoEmailProvided@columbiarivercrossing.org
To: [Columbia River Crossing](#)
CC:
Subject: Comment from CRC DraftEIS Comments Page
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2008 3:18:49 PM
Attachments:

Home Zip Code: 98683
 Work Zip Code: 98664

Person:

Lives in the project area
 Owns a business in the project area

Person commutes in the travel area via:
 Car or Truck



P-0895-001

1. In Support of the following bridge options:
 Replacement Bridge
2. In Support of the following High Capacity Transit options:
 Light Rail between Vancouver and Portland
3. Support of Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail by location:
 Lincoln Terminus: Yes
 Kiggins Bowl Terminus: Yes
 Mill Plain (MOS) Terminus: Yes
 Clark College (MOS) Terminus: Yes

Contact Information:

First Name:
 Last Name:
 Title:
 E-Mail:
 Address:
 ,

Comments:

P-0895-002 I feel very strongly that light rail is a critical part of this project so that it will not be

P-0895-001

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.

P-0895-002

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-0895-003 | immediately overwhelmed by more vehicles. I do not oppose tolls if they are used to expedite the entire project. Bike lanes should be part of the project also. We are clearly heading toward a time we will need alternatives to the one car/one person model, no matter what the people reluctant to change may wish.

P-0895-004 |

P-0895-005 |

P-0895-003

Tolling was evaluated in the DEIS and FEIS, and included in the LPA for two important reasons. First, a toll may be necessary to pay for the construction of this project, as discussed in Chapter 4 of the FEIS. Second, a toll provides a valuable travel demand management tool that encourages travelers to take alternative modes (including light rail provided by this project), travel at off-peak periods, or reduce their auto trips. This demand management reduces congestion and extends the effective service life of the facility. When the existing I-5 northbound bridge was built in 1917, it was paid for with a toll. The southbound I-5 bridge, built in 1958, was also funded partially by tolls. In 2008, the Washington legislature passed enabling language for tolling on I-5, provided that each facility is later authorized under specific legislation. Once authorized by the legislature, the Washington Transportation Commission has the authority to set the toll rates. In Oregon, and the Oregon Transportation Commission has the authority to toll a facility and to set the toll rates.

P-0895-004

As discussed in the DEIS, a replacement bridge over the Columbia River will include dramatically improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities by providing:

- A new 16 to 20 foot multi-use pathway over the Columbia River completely separated from vehicle traffic due to the design of the Stacked Transit Highway Bridge
- Protections from traffic noise, exhaust and debris for pedestrians and bicyclists on the river crossing
- More direct connections on each side of the river, consisting of stairs, ramps, and elevators, as well as pathway extensions that connect in with existing or planned facilities and public transit
- Many new or enhanced sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks near the bridge and throughout the project area

Since the publication of the DEIS in May 2008, and the selection of the LPA in July 2008, the CRC project team has continued to work with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee and project partners to refine route and facility design. The updated design, as described in Chapter 2 (Section 2.2) of the FEIS, is the outcome of a long collaboration process.

P-0895-005

The LPA includes substantial changes to the river crossing's transportation infrastructure and operations (extension of LRT, addition of tolling, and elimination of bridge lifts) that would reduce, not increase, future automotive demand and petroleum use. The LPA would increase daily transit mode share and reduce the number of cars traveling over the I-5 bridges. This increase in transit usage and decrease in auto travel is expected to reduce automotive petroleum consumption. The reduction in congestion and accidents, and the elimination of bridge lifts would also improve fuel efficiency and thus further reduce petroleum use.