02826

From: Connie McAyeal

To: Columbia River Crossing;

CC:

Subject: Col Crossing

Date: Monday, June 23, 2008 10:40:09 AM

Attachments:

P-1175-001

What's the rush? Back off for a year or so, and see how high gas goes, and how much of an impact it has on trucking and auto use.

The Government could once again be shoving something down our throats that may not even be needed.

Connie McAyeal

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Significant increases in oil prices can have both short term and long term effects on travel behavior. In the short term, the options for responding to rising gas prices are more limited, and include driving less and/or changing from driving to walking, biking or transit for at least some trips. During recent increases in gasoline prices transit use increased and offpeak highway travel decreased. Peak period highway travel changed little.

Over the long term, there are more options for adjusting to changes in gasoline prices, besides changing driving behavior. Technological advances and legislative mandates can increase fuel efficiency standards in the long term. In turn, as older vehicles wear out, more consumers can replace them with more fuel efficient vehicles. Automobile manufacturers are developing and will continue to develop new vehicle and engine technologies that require much less, or even no, petroleum-based fuels. This trend is already happening as evidenced by the growing popularity of gasoline-electric hybrid and small electric vehicles.