



From: FMBurchPR@aol.com
To: [Columbia River Crossing](#)
CC:
Subject: National Association of Minority Contractor's
Comments
Date: Tuesday, July 01, 2008 1:01:10 PM
Attachments: [CRC EIS.doc](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

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O-026-001

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July 1, 2008

Dear Columbia River Crossing Task Force members;

The National Association of Minority Contractors Oregon chapter (NAMCO) thanks you for the opportunity to weigh in on the needed complete makeover of the I-5 draw bridge into a comprehensive transportation bridge. NAMCO is an advocacy organization for Historically Underutilized Businesses More specifically Minority owned DBE firms in the construction and construction related fields. We want to be your partner on this project on the big picture scope of who will design and construct the final decided version.

NAMCO is about opportunity and partnerships with local area owners and large scale Engineering firms and contractors who realize we all benefit when all of us believe we have the opportunity to participate and realize our full potential.

As we are all individuals and part of the local economy with creative, diverse perspectives and contribution of ideas and thoughts to preserving our environment.

We also want this important project to consider the human side of the equation and ensure utilization of minority owned DBE firms in all phases of construction planning, drafting, design, and building of what will be the greatest infrastructure creation on the West Coast for years to come.

We have had tremendous differences with ODOT that have severely and economically impacted our businesses and ultimately our community but we remain hopeful that with others involved our voices will be heard.

We welcome the beginning of open dialogue on how to ensure a positive environmental impact on Minority community owned firms and the local communities they support.

Regards,

NAMCO Executive Committee

O-026-001

Both ODOT and WSDOT are committed to assisting qualified minority and women-owned businesses to obtain design or construction related contracts for the Columbia River Crossing Project. While local contractors are welcome to apply, Federal contracts cannot dictate the use of local contractors. The construction phase for this project is anticipated to begin not earlier than 2013. Firms seeking to assist the CRC project in this next phase of work should first make sure that they are registered as a state certified contractor in either Washington or Oregon or both. Both ODOT and WSDOT have information on their websites about this process. Firms are also encouraged to contact the agencies directly to obtain certification and make sure they have all relevant information. Firms should stay current with project developments by signing up for e-Updates via the CRC website.