

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2010

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Transportation departments deliver plan to implement recommendations of CRC Independent Review Panel

OLYMPIA/SALEM – The Washington and Oregon Departments of Transportation executives today delivered a letter to the Washington and Oregon governors that accepts all 30 recommendations of the Columbia River Crossing Independent Review Panel and outlines a plan to implement them.

“The panel’s recommendations, in conjunction with ongoing work with project partners and their staffs, strengthen the project and will help us move forward in a holistic and timely manner,” wrote Paula Hammond, Secretary of Transportation for Washington State, and Matt Garrett, Director of the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The CRC Independent Review Panel delivered its final report to Washington Governor Chris Gregoire and Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski on July 30, 2010, after three months of review and deliberations. In its report, the panel affirmed that the CRC must move forward to build a new bridge at the earliest possible date. The panel also commended the work to date on the preliminary environmental and engineering issues and outlined a series of recommendations to serve as a road map to move from design to completion of the project.

As a result of the panel’s report, the governors directed the two state transportation departments to develop a work plan to implement the panel’s recommendations.

In today’s response, Hammond and Garrett focused on six topic areas, which are included in the panel’s recommendations:

1. Review project phasing
2. Reinvigorate public involvement
3. Resolve interchange design at Marine Drive and Hayden Island
4. Review the bridge type selection
5. Establish a long-term project management/ governance plan
6. Update the cost estimate

“We intend to build on the recent progress that has been made using the Integrated Project Sponsors Council’s Staff (IPS) and the Project Sponsors Council (PSC), to continue to work through and build consensus on each of these critical efforts,” Hammond and Garrett wrote in the letter.

Project staff will develop more detailed work plans for these six topics in collaboration with the integrated PSC staff group and PSC members.

A copy of the letter is at:

http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org/FileLibrary/IRP/DOT_Response_092810.PDF

About the project

CRC is a long-term, comprehensive project to reduce congestion, enhance mobility and improve safety on I-5 between SR 500 in Vancouver and Columbia Boulevard in Portland. The project will replace the I-5 bridge, extend light rail to Vancouver, Wash., improve closely-spaced interchanges and enhance the pedestrian and bicycle path between the two cities. The project would be funded by federal and state sources, as well as tolls. Written comments may be submitted on the CRC project at any time at feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org. More information is available on the CRC project website: www.columbiarivercrossing.org

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