



Downtown Vancouver Construction

Maintaining access and keeping people moving during construction

Columbia River Crossing is a critical transportation project in the middle of a vibrant city which needs to keep traffic flowing and businesses accessible during construction. The CRC project team understands construction can place strains on businesses, residents and travelers. We are committed to working with the community to maintain business access and keep people moving throughout construction.

Partnering with businesses for construction success

A well-managed downtown construction project begins with communicating with business owners, understanding their needs during construction and incorporating, when practical, those needs into construction management and mitigation plans. This process began during the environmental planning phase and resulted in mitigation commitments approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration and identified in the CRC Record of Decision¹. A few of CRC's key commitments to downtown Vancouver businesses are described below.

Helping businesses through construction

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Based on best construction practices in similar urban areas, contractors will coordinate the schedule, pace and order of construction to complete work efficiently and cost effectively and minimize its impacts on nearby businesses. Construction of downtown street and transit improvements, such as earthwork, paving and installation of rail lines, will be constructed in segments. Construction of these street and rail improvements will be required to be completed in one segment before moving on to the next. Other work that doesn't require full street closures, such as street furnishings and station finishings, would be installed separately.

ACCESS TO BUSINESSES

Access to and from I-5 and downtown will be maintained throughout construction. Some ramps may be closed for some time. Detours will be clearly marked. Advance notice and detour signs will be provided to ensure customers, suppliers and employees can still access individual businesses.

Columbia River Crossing A long-term, comprehensive solution

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project is a long-term, comprehensive solution to address safety and congestion problems on I-5 between Portland and Vancouver. The project will replace the I-5 bridge, extend light rail to Vancouver, improve closely-spaced interchanges and enhance pedestrian and bicycle pathways.

Benefits to local residents, the natural environment and regional economy include:

- Reduced congestion on I-5 and adjacent neighborhoods
- Seventy percent fewer collisions per year
- A more reliable trip for freight, autos and transit
- About 1,900 supported or sustained jobs per year of construction
- A bridge that meets modern seismic standards
- No more congestion-causing bridge lifts
- Reduced emissions and improved water quality

Maintaining access to businesses for customers, delivery and service vehicles will be a key component of the construction plan. Project staff will coordinate directly with businesses to identify access needs before construction begins.

Temporary signage will be provided to identify the location of access points to businesses during detours or closures. CRC also will identify, provide and/or advertise temporary parking locations to replace parking that is temporarily displaced by construction. Notice of detours, temporary lane and parking closures and other disruptions will be provided in advance to allow businesses and residents time to establish new traffic and pedestrian patterns.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CRC will support the City of Vancouver in implementing programs to help businesses during construction, such as:

- Business planning assistance
- Marketing and retail consulting
- Promotions to generate patronage in construction areas

¹See Interstate 5 Columbia River Cross Project Record of Decision: Appendix A: Project Mitigation Commitments. http://www.columbiarivercrossing.com/FileLibrary/ROD/CRC_ROD.pdf

CONSTRUCTION HOTLINE

During construction, businesses and property owners will be provided with a construction hotline to resolve issues.

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY OWNER RESOURCES

WSDOT, C-TRAN and City of Vancouver staff will support business and property owners along the project corridor during construction planning and throughout construction. These representatives connect businesses with appropriate resources and will help problem solve issues related to construction impacts.

Construction schedule depends on funding

The finance plan identifies funding coming from three sources: federal, state and user fees. We have great support at the federal level and are currently ranked competitively to secure federal transit funds through the FTA New Starts process. In order to obtain federal funding, state and local funding commitments must first be in place.

Provided construction funding is secured in 2013, utility relocations could begin the same year. I-5 bridge construction and reconstruction of the Highway 14 interchange could begin in late 2014 with site clearing and construction staging near the Highway 14 interchange. Construction of light rail transit in downtown Vancouver could begin in 2015.

Upcoming work refines construction plans

CRC is working with the City of Vancouver, C-TRAN and TriMet to take advantage of best practices from similar urban downtown construction projects. In 2013, CRC will be working with the Vancouver's Downtown Association, business owners and the downtown community to develop construction management and mitigation plans.

Upcoming work will focus on sharing information about existing construction mitigation plans and talking with the community about the steps to further develop and refine those plans. Detailed construction planning will begin in earnest once construction funding is secured.

PROJECT SCHEDULE



Where can I get more information?

Web: www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org

Subscribe to the project e-mail update list at www.columbiarivercrossing.com/SignUp.aspx

E-mail: feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org

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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION Materials can be made available in an alternate format by calling the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project office at (866) 396-2726. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the CRC project through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 7-1-1.

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