

Columbia River
 CROSSING

City of Portland

Locally Preferred Alternative Resolution

July 2008

RESOLUTION No. 36618

Support a Replacement Bridge River Crossing with Light Rail Transit as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Columbia River Crossing Project. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, I-5 is the only continuous north/south Interstate on the West Coast and provides a critical local, national and international transportation link for motor vehicles and truck-hauled freight in the western-most United States; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate Bridge is one of only two Columbia River crossings between Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington and approximately 150,000 people rely on crossing the I-5 Bridge daily by car, transit, bicycle and on foot; and

WHEREAS, the existing structures are aging and in need of seismic upgrade, and the closely-spaced interchanges are in need of safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, the movement of land and water-based freight is hindered by the current crossing; and

WHEREAS, high capacity transit does not currently connect the Cities of Portland and Vancouver, and the bicycle and pedestrian paths do not meet current standards; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2002, the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Final Strategic Plan recommended congestion and mobility improvements to address the identified bottlenecks within the I-5 Bridge Influence Area that include I-5 at the Columbia River and I-5 at Delta Park; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2003, the Portland City Council adopted Resolution No. 36120 to endorse the recommended Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Study Strategic Plan which includes three-through lanes in each direction on I-5 and an additional span or replacement bridge for the I-5 crossing of the Columbia River, with up to two additional lanes for merging traffic and two light rail tracks; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Resolution No. 36120, the Portland City Council on May 24, 2006, adopted Resolution No. 36414 to adopt the I-5 Delta Park to Lombard Hearing Panel recommendations for the Locally Preferred Alternative to widen I-5 to three lanes between Delta Park and Lombard; and

WHEREAS, in February 2005, the Columbia River Crossing Task Force was formed by the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Transportation to advise on project-related issues, develop the Purpose and Need statement and key decision making criteria, and to develop project alternatives that would be studied in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Metro Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet, C-TRAN, City of Vancouver and City of Portland have worked collaboratively on the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was developed with substantial public oversight including the guidance of the Columbia River Crossing Task Force, the Freight Working Group, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Urban Design Advisory Group, and the Environmental Justice Working Group; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared in accordance with federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines and was released for public comment on May 2, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has long pursued policies that promote sustainable transportation options, compact urban form, economic vitality, environmental justice, neighborhood livability, watershed health and the wise use and conservation of our limited natural resources; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Resolution No. 36120, the Portland City Council on April 5, 2007, adopted Ordinance No. 180871 to adopt the Transportation System Plan for the City of Portland that identifies the Columbia River Bridge Widening and the Light Rail Extension from the Expo Center to Vancouver as recommended major transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2007, the Portland City Council adopted Resolution No. 36548 that revised the joint City and Multnomah County Local Action Plan on Global Warming to identify strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, and to incorporate the recommendations of the Peak Oil Task Force presented to the City Council in March, 2007; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2008, the Governor's Climate Change Integration Group published a final report entitled "A Framework for Addressing Rapid Climate Change" which includes a chapter that outlines actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2008, the Portland Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the purpose of soliciting public comment as part of the DEIS record; and

WHEREAS, based on the findings in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Replacement Bridge with Light Rail Transit alternative best meets the Purpose and Need statement and evaluation criteria established by the CRC Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Replacement Bridge with Light Rail Transit alternative on balance supports the land use, economic development, urban design and neighborhoods, transportation, and environmental and sustainability policies contained in the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Portland Office of Transportation has prepared a staff report based on the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the policies in the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan, and has recommended the Replacement Bridge with Light Rail Transit alternative as the Locally Preferred Alternative; and; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008, the Columbia River Crossing Task Force passed a Resolution in support of the Replacement Bridge with Light Rail Transit alternative as the Locally Preferred Alternative; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008, the Portland Planning Commission has prepared recommendations to the City Council based on the findings from public testimony, the Sustainability Development Commission, the Office of Transportation staff report; and comments received from other City Bureaus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Portland supports a locally preferred alternative that consists of a replacement bridge structure with no more than three through travel lanes in each direction and includes lightrail transit connecting Oregon and Washington as a basis for further study and evaluation in the next phase of the Columbia River Crossing Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, further evaluation by the City of Portland of the Columbia River Crossing Project will be done consistent with the City's policies and goals including: minority and women contracting, storm water management, conservation of the environment, access to transit, transportation management and options, peak oil and climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Portland asserts its right to continue to comment on and participate in all major decisions in furtherance of the policies outlined in Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall not be interpreted as the City of Portland's final input or acceptance on the design and construction of the project.

Adopted by the Council,

July 9, 2008

Y-5 (Potter, Adams, Fish, Leonard, Saltzman)

Commissioner Sam Adams

Prepared by: John Gillam

Date Prepared: July 1, 2008

GARY BLACKMER

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Deputy

Exhibit A

City of Portland Policy Statements on Columbia River Crossing Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

Locally Preferred Alternative

- LPA 1. The Replacement Bridge shall be the river crossing component of the LPA.
- LPA 2. Light Rail Transit (LRT) shall be the high-capacity transit component of the LPA.
- LPA 3. Further technical analysis and public involvement is needed to determine the “appropriately sized” bridge for all multi-modal components.
- The City of Portland understands that the size bridge analyzed in the DEIS is a maximum-impact design for the purpose of NEPA and not a commitment on bridge size. The City of Portland recommends that the next phase focus on the smallest bridge possible to meet project needs.
- LPA 4. The highest quality architecture for the project allowable by engineering limitations/reasonable cost shall be employed for both the Columbia River span and the Portland Harbor span.
- Reconsider the constraints on bridge design related to navigation and airspace.
- LPA 5. The project shall include a “World-Class” facility for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the Columbia River and throughout the project area.
- LPA 6. The CRC project shall provide the highest model of sustainability design and construction applications for a bridge of its proposed size and scale, including a comprehensive stormwater strategy and minimal impacts on fish, wildlife and watershed health.
- LPA 7. A comprehensive transportation demand management (TDM) strategy shall be developed including the use of variable-priced tolling in perpetuity.
- LPA 8. The CRC project shall contribute to a reduction of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita in the bi-state metropolitan area.
- LPA 9. The I-5 Columbia River Crossing project shall consider long-range plans for freight movement; both truck and rail, including improvements to the nearby rail bridge over the Columbia River and the connecting rail facilities in Vancouver and Portland.
- LPA 10. The CRC project shall at a minimum follow the City of Portland requirements of employing MWESB contractors.
- LPA 11. The CRC project shall develop a detailed financing plan showing costs and sources of revenue. The financing plan shall indicate how the use of the identified federal, state and local (if any) revenues would impact the financing of other potential transportation projects in the region. Any Oregon State gas tax revenues used to finance the CRC project shall come from the State’s share of new gas tax revenues thereby not reducing the share of new gas tax revenues allocated to the counties and cities.
- LPA 12. The CRC project shall contract for an independent analysis of the greenhouse gas and induced automobile travel demand forecasts for the project.

Hayden Island Interchange

- HI 1. The CRC project must provide an ultra high-quality LRT station on Hayden Island that provides a community focal point. Safe, attractive and accessible pedestrian and bicycle facilities shall be incorporated into the station area design.
- HI 2. CRC project arterial streets providing access to the interchange shall also serve community needs, and provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities and street trees. Smaller scale arterial streets than currently indicated in the DEIS should be considered.
- HI 3. The western termini of the CRC project arterial street improvements on Hayden Island Drive and Jantzen Beach Drive should be extended to the planned primary north-south future public street (approximately 600 feet west of the freeway ramp intersections).
- HI 4. The extension of Tomahawk Drive under the freeway shall be designed as a community main street highlighting the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists and local traffic access. Design issues to be resolved include the provision of acceptable vertical and horizontal clearances, property access, stormwater management and creating an attractive and safe environment under the freeway.
- HI 5. The CRC project shall consider participating and allowing for the re-use of areas north of Hayden Island Drive that are disrupted by construction or used for construction activities, for open space, stormwater management and habitat restoration.
- HI 6. The CRC project, ODOT and the City shall work cooperatively in the development and adoption of the required Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP). The IAMP shall consider the principles of IAMP standards balanced with current and future property access and in coordination with a master street plan for Hayden Island.

Marine Drive Interchange

- MD 1. The next phase of the CRC project development process should continue to evaluate the interchange design alternatives presented in the DEIS.

The evaluation should recognize that this is a freight priority interchange and also consider potential future land use opportunities, the current and future needs of Expo and the protection of the Vanport wetlands.
- MD 2. Implement a network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities to improve connectivity in the interchange area, and connecting to Bridgeton and to Hayden Island under all interchange design options.
- MD 3. The CRC project shall include an extension of the pedestrian and bicycle facilities to Bridgeton including a first phase construction of the Bridgeton Trail.
- MD 4. Under all interchange design options the potential for a local street connection (non-freeway) to Kenton should be evaluated.
- MD 5. The CRC project, ODOT and the City shall work cooperatively in the development and adoption of the required Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP).

Pedestrian Bicycle Facilities

- PB 1. A multi-use facility shall provide for three separated facilities and space dedicated for southbound bicycle travel, northbound bicycle travel, and pedestrians adjacent to the high-capacity transit facility. This facility should meet or exceed standards set by “World-Class” facilities.
- PB 2. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the river crossing bridges should provide for occasional rest areas and look out points.
- PB 3. The multi-use facility on the river crossing shall be of continuous design and connect to the Hayden Island transit station and the Expo station.
- PB 4. An urban standard pedestrian facility shall be provided on the east side of the Portland Harbor bridge connecting Bridgeton to Hayden Island.
- PB 5. Implement the pedestrian and bicycle improvements identified for the recommendations for the Hayden Island and Marine Drive interchanges.

Urban Design

- UD 1. Engineering refinements for the bridges shall be undertaken to produce a signature distinctive design given physical limitations and cost considerations.
- UD 2. An alternative reconfiguration of the Marine Drive interchange shall be considered to strengthen the adjacent publicly-owned properties' relationship to the North Portland Harbor waterway and provide redevelopment opportunities.
- UD 3. The new Hayden Island interchange and transit station functions must be carefully integrated in design and be supportive of the Hayden Island Concept Plan recommendations.
- UD 4. Iconic design elements over North Portland Harbor could be analogous to those used at the future iconic Evergreen Street “lid” north of State Route 14 in Vancouver.

Environmental Justice

- EJ 1. The CRC project shall assess the impact of tolls on low-income people, including toll avoidance and limited access to technology for payment of tolls.
- EJ 2. The CRC project shall assess the impact of the project on low income and minority populations in the region regarding access to affordable housing and employment.
- EJ 3. The CRC project shall address project impacts on populations at or below the poverty level.

Post LPA Process

- PR 1. The City of Portland asserts its right to comment on and participate in major post-LPA decisions including:
- The size, location, design and aesthetics of the bridges and highway facility in the project area
 - The size, design and location of the bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the project area
 - The location and design of the light rail transit facility including stations.
 - The design of the Hayden Island and Marine Drive interchanges.
 - Reconsideration of bridge design constraints related to navigation and airspace (see LPA 4)
 - CRC project finance plan (see LPA 10)
 - An independent analysis of greenhouse gas and induced automobile travel demand forecasts (see LPA 11)
 - Investigate potential for tolling I-205 and for revenue to be applied to other highway projects in Portland.

The Portland City Council shall conduct public hearings on major post-LPA decisions.

The City of Portland believes it essential that the financial, greenhouse gas and review of design constraints be immediate priorities of the project. The City of Portland will need the results of this analysis to adequately consider revisions to the project and insure that these revisions can be completed in a timely manner.

- PR 2. The existing advisory group for freight, pedestrian/bicycles, urban design and environmental justice should continue their roles, for post LPA activities. The CRC project process should also consider assembling a combined design advisory group.
- PR 3. The Bi-State Coordinating Committee should continue to review post-LPA project recommendations and comment at important milestones. This group should also consider updating their land use accord to assure a stronger role in land use/transportation coordination matters particularly for high-capacity transit planning between the states.

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Locally Preferred Alternative Resolution

July 2008

7/7/08

RESOLUTION NO. M-3663

A RESOLUTION relating to selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Columbia River Crossing project (CRC), and authorizing action by the City of Vancouver's delegates to the C-TRAN Board and Regional Transportation Council Board, guided by the principles herein, in support of a regional LPA.

WHEREAS, Interstate 5 is a corridor of national significance that serves the entire west coast of the United States, as well as international commerce with Canada, Mexico, and all of the countries of the Pacific Rim that access US west coast sea ports; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 5 between Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington experiences some of the worst congestion along the entire length of the Interstate 5 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate Bridge is one of only two Columbia River crossings between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon and approximately 138,000 people rely on crossing the I-5 Bridge daily by car, transit, bicycle and on foot; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver-Portland Metropolitan Area is expected to grow by one million new residents by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the existing I-5 bridges are old and do not meet current seismic hazard avoidance standards; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Final Strategic Plan recommended congestion and mobility improvements within the I-5 Bridge Influence Area in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of Oregon and Washington initiated the Columbia River Crossing Project (CRC) and appointed a 39 member task force with representation from both

states and representing a wide range of interests to guide the planning process for river crossing and corridor improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver staff and elected officials have collaboratively participated with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Transportation, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, Portland Metro Council, C-TRAN, Tri-Met, and the City of Portland on the development of the DEIS; and

WHEREAS, the CRC Project with guidance from the Taskforce and eight Partner Agencies evaluated a wide range of potential solutions; and

WHEREAS, Vancouver City Council has previously resolved to support further study of improvements to the I-5 Corridor in the Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Task Force in Resolution M-3424, April 7, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the CRC five-mile project corridor serves as a key economic connector to two major ports, much of the Portland/Vancouver region industrial land, and the entire US west coast; and

WHEREAS, the movement of land and marine freight is significantly hindered by the existing CRC five-mile project corridor condition; and

WHEREAS, the CRC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifies that the segment of I-5 in the vicinity of the Columbia River has extended peak-hour travel demand that exceeds capacity on bridge spans that are over 50 and 90 years old that do not meet current traffic safety standards; and

WHEREAS, the seven closely-spaced interchanges in the five-mile CRC project corridor do not meet current safety or traffic engineering standards and are therefore inefficient and contribute significantly to corridor congestion and collisions; and

WHEREAS, the bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the I-5 bridge and in the project corridor are undersized and do not meet current safety standards; and

WHEREAS, demand for bicycle and pedestrian facilities is increasing; and

WHEREAS, existing bi-state public transit service is inadequate to meet peak hour travel demand in the congested project corridor, not least because existing service operates in mixed traffic on the congested corridor; and

WHEREAS, high capacity transit does not currently connect Vancouver and Portland, and high capacity transit in an exclusive right-of-way would provide greatly improved transit service with much better schedule reliability and service than mixed-use traffic operation; and

WHEREAS, doing nothing is not an acceptable option because it would result in unpredictable and increasing travel delay in the I-5 corridor as a result of increased congestion and bridge lifts and collisions, and would leave in place the ever-present latent risk of bridge failure in a seismic event; and

WHEREAS, Vancouver's adopted comprehensive land use plan, including the transportation element, and the Vancouver City Center Vision plan each identify and plan for a comprehensive multi-modal project to relieve congestion on I-5 and call for connecting to the regional high capacity transit system in Portland; and

WHEREAS, Vancouver's adopted Comprehensive Land Use Plan and City Center Vision Plan identify the need to improve circulation in downtown and at the connecting interchanges in order to support efficient multi-modal travel and increased livability within the downtown core; and

WHEREAS, to be successful, the CRC project must improve the livability, attractiveness, and long term viability of Vancouver; to do otherwise would be inconsistent with our adopted plans, policies, and practices; and

WHEREAS, there has been broad and comprehensive public outreach and public comment on the project alternatives by the citizens of Vancouver; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver's endorsement of an LPA is one "narrowing" step in a multi-step process and an important opportunity for Vancouver City Council to articulate concerns which need to be weighed at this and subsequent steps; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver has identified issues requiring further study and cumulative project impacts that exceed those identified in the DEIS and presents, in Attachment A to this Resolution, a framework for mitigations and enhancements to address those impacts; and

WHEREAS, the replacement bridge option provides the most congestion relief and best overall performance in terms of safety, marine and roadway freight benefit, seismic suitability, and bicycle and pedestrian environment; and

WHEREAS, the light rail transit option provides the most transit capacity, highest transit ridership, overall best transit performance, lowest long-term operating cost, and connects seamlessly to the regional light rail system; and

WHEREAS, the Clark College terminus is consistent with the City of Vancouver Comprehensive Plan, is the most cost-effective high capacity transit terminus option, and fosters a phase II eastward expansion, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Council I-5 Partnership Resolution M-3424; and

WHEREAS, a Broadway/Washington light rail couplet in lower downtown and a McLoughlin alignment to Clark College accommodate roadway capacity for traffic and CTRAN bus service Vancouver and maximize the positive land use impact of light rail; and

WHEREAS, this resolution provides a prudent course of action,

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are adopted as legislative findings of the City Council of the City of Vancouver in support of this resolution.

Section 2. Based on the information and findings published in the DEIS, the City of Vancouver endorses a Locally Preferred Alternative consisting of:

- a. A replacement bridge
- b. Light rail transit
- c. A transit terminus at Clark College
- d. An alignment on a Washington / Broadway couplet in lower downtown and on McLoughlin Boulevard to the Clark College terminus.

Section 3. The following policy statements should guide further development of the project upon approval of a LPA:

- a. Because of the national and international importance of the I-5 corridor for trade and national security, and because of the importance of and federal interest in Columbia River navigation, the federal government should play a very prominent role in project funding.
- b. Vancouver's land use and economic development plan for the downtown core is built around revitalization and re-establishment of the historical links between the downtown core and both the Columbia River Waterfront and Fort Vancouver and the Historic


Reserve. Additionally, Vancouver's adopted Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Vancouver City Center Vision Plan are premised primarily on creating livable and sustainable human-scale environments that provide transportation mobility and accessibility for the entire range of travel modes. In practice, this calls for attention to the details of balancing pedestrian connectivity and safety, bicycle network system connections, automobile and freight capacity, safety, and functionality, and universal accessibility. These principals must guide every step of the CRC design process in order to be consistent with Vancouver's adopted plans. Deviation from these principals anywhere in the project influence area, which may include making it more difficult to achieve Vancouver's plans, in particular re-connecting downtown with the Historic Reserve and the Columbia River waterfront in the future, can only be characterized as a project impact that must be mitigated in order to be consistent with Vancouver's adopted long term plans.

- c. The City of Vancouver Council directly supports a balanced multi-modal approach of highway, high capacity transit, transportation demand management, bicycle and pedestrian improvements to serve the City's and region's travel needs, and prefers the stacked bridge design option.
- d. The City of Vancouver Council endorses the principles of sustainability within the City of Vancouver, and therefore the Columbia River Crossing project should implement principles of sustainability into project planning, design and construction in order to improve the natural and social environment and the regional economy and to minimize overall environmental impact and effects related to climate change.

- e. The City of Vancouver Council communicates that the project mitigations identified in the DEIS, in Attachment A to this Resolution, and those submitted through the DEIS comment process, must be satisfactorily addressed as the LPA is refined into specific project elements, and final design plans are developed.
- f. The City of Vancouver will continue to be centrally involved in project leadership in a post-LPA project management steering team capacity and will contribute to those decisions affecting design, financing and community mitigation of the proposed improvements. This team should consist of the eight directly affected government agencies (Cities of Vancouver and Portland, Tri-Met and CTRAN, WSDOT and ODOT, and Metro and Southwest Washington RTC). The City recognizes that many project elements have not been finalized at the time of LPA adoption, yet believes it is in the community's interest to move the process into the next design and financial planning phase.

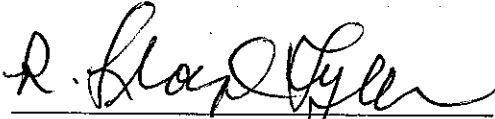
Section 4. Vancouver City Councilors serving on the C-TRAN board and the Southwest Washington RTC Board should support and advocate for passage of a resolution supporting adoption of a LPA for the Columbia River Crossing Project as defined herein.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 7th day of July, 2008.



Royce E. Pollard, Mayor

Attest:



R. Lloyd Tyler, City Clerk

~~By Carrie Lewellen, Deputy City Clerk~~

Approved as to form:



Ted H. Gathe, City Attorney

Attachment A: Framework for Project Related Mitigation and Enhancements

ATTACHMENT A

Framework for Project Related Mitigation and Enhancements.

Policy Framework

Vancouver has great neighborhoods. The CRC project must positively contribute to ALL of Vancouver's neighborhoods and districts, consistent with Vancouver's adopted plans and policies, and consistent, to the extent possible, with duly adopted Neighborhood Action Plans where they are consistent with adopted City plans.

Vancouver's land use and economic development plan for the downtown core is built around revitalization and re-establishment of the historical links between the downtown core and both the Columbia River Waterfront and Fort Vancouver and the Historic Reserve. Vancouver has a rich and vibrant history that needs to be maintained and improved. Years of City resident, business and stakeholder initiatives have focused on connecting and enhancing the cultural, historic and interpretive landscape of Vancouver, and preserving historical resources and landscape elements. Much of that focus has been the process enhancing the resources and landscape through restorative efforts and creating physical connections which tie the individual elements into a cohesive interpretive experience. As one of the northwest's earliest settlements, honoring and preserving our history is a prominent and central purpose that the City has committed to through actions, adopted plans, and policies that will leave a legacy for future generations. The improvement of I-5 and implementation of light-rail-transit should promote and enhance this legacy.

Additionally, Vancouver's adopted Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Vancouver City Center Vision plan are premised primarily on creating livable and sustainable human-scale environments that provide transportation mobility and accessibility for the entire range of travel modes. In practice, this calls for attention to the details of balancing pedestrian connectivity and safety, bicycle network system connections, automobile and freight capacity, safety, and functionality, and universal accessibility. These principals must guide every step of the CRC design process in order to be consistent with Vancouver's adopted plans. Deviation from these principals anywhere in the project influence area, which may include making it more difficult to achieve Vancouver's plans, in particular re-connecting downtown with the Historic Reserve and the Columbia River waterfront in the future, can only be characterized as a project impact that must be mitigated in order to be consistent with Vancouver's adopted long term plans.

The City of Vancouver Council endorses the principles of sustainability for projects within the City of Vancouver, and therefore believes that the Columbia River Crossing project should implement principles of sustainability into project planning, design and construction in order to improve the natural and social environment and the regional economy and to minimize overall environmental impact and effects related to climate change.

Project Impacts and Potential Mitigations

Cumulative Impacts

This category covers those impacts that will have an impact on Vancouver which result from sum of incremental impacts of the CRC project. Cumulative impacts, when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, would cause a direct impact or would preclude fulfillment of plans and goals as adopted by the City.

Staff review of the proposed DEIS alternatives find that plans and initiatives of the City's Plans could be precluded by the LPA project, and therefore will need to be addressed / mitigated prior to the completion of the final EIS. Staff identified specific issues that need to be addressed; including

- Physical barriers or other limitations that would be imposed to preclude the construction of the community connections in the Vancouver City Center Vision must be avoided. The footprint and presence (barrier effect) which I-5 creates between the heart of downtown and the historic Reserve must be minimized. Connecting the historical and interpretive artifacts and landscape elements, and preserving the landscape is a central goal of the City. Community connections identified in the plans and designed to connect the cultural landscape elements include:
 - Evergreen Blvd pedestrian and community enhancement (now referred to as the Evergreen freeway lid) connecting the existing and proposed development at Evergreen/C Street to West Vancouver Barracks
 - Main Street extension (5th Street to Columbia Way)
 - Columbia Way alignment at north river bank (open up and re-establish north river bank pre I-5 character)
 - Redevelopment or re-use of land unencumbered by physical structures for the bridge itself or supporting water treatment facilities (5th Street to north river bank)
 - Landbridge connection to Main Street extension (extended Main Street to Old Apple Tree park)
 - 5th Street pathway to Reserve (roughly Main/5th Street to 5th Street in Reserve)
 - 7th Street Heritage Bridge C Street to West Vancouver Barracks across I-5
- Construction disruption. A project of this size and complexity will require years of construction activity. This activity will occur on downtown streets, within neighborhoods and at the major interchange gateways to the City. The resultant impact, if left unmitigated, could impose severe hardships to the business and community environment within Vancouver. The project must dedicate resources and expertise the issue of managing construction disruption and alleviating direct and indirect impacts to travel access and business conditions.
 - Mitigations to be considered to address these issues should include: additional transit or other mobility services during the construction period; business support services in the form of marketing and business planning, funding support for a transportation

management association or other transportation advocacy group to help assist in detour planning and business marketing and general advocacy, and direct or indirect financial aid to minimize the disruption caused by the final project construction.

- o Additionally, direct construction impacts such as pavement degradation have to be mitigated. Any degradation of pavement or roadway base that results from construction activity will be mitigated through restoration. As an alternative, the project could pre-mitigated by reconstructing a defined truck route prior to construction to an industrial roadway section.

Design Considerations

Many of the project's physical and aesthetic designs will be resolved during the refinement of the LPA project detailed planning and engineering phase. The City should reinforce through it's support for an LPA, the importance of context sensitive and aesthetically pleasing design solutions for each of the elements of the project (highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian).

In support for context sensitive and well rounded urban design solutions, the Urban Design Advisory Group which the Mayor co-chairs will be issuing a preliminary report in June 2008. That report should serve as a starting point for refinement of the physical designs that should follow. Specific principles are to be documented in the report, and a few of the broad principles are generally summarized below.

- The highest quality bridge architecture allowable by engineering limitation and reasonable costs should be undertaken to produce a signature design.
- Iconic elements and design principles should be employed for the Columbia River span and all other bridges to be re-built or modified between SR-14 and SR-500
- The CRC project as a whole should provide the highest standard of sustainable design and construction methods to assure the least cost environmental footprint given the project's proposed scale and diversity of infrastructure.
- The design of the LRT system and structures should be of high-quality architectural and street design. The facilities must be designed for maximum rider and community safety and incorporate design principles and supplemental technology and achieve those ends.
- Given the functions of the main span bridge, the river crossing should be designed to a "world class" standard for pedestrians and bicyclists and should contemplate in its design non-auto vehicle classes that could utilize such a facility in the future.

The project sponsors will need to ensure that both the integrity of the project and integration within the surrounding communities is achieved. The following additional considerations help to further integrate the project within the surrounding community.

- Demand management must play a central role in helping to manage the auto demand during peak traffic periods and support downtown Vancouver's circulation goals.
- Pedestrian and bicycle linkages to the proposed transit stations should be provided and filled-in where currently missing. The final street and station designs for LRT should add to; and

not impede pedestrian circulation in the random manner which those activities occur within a dense urban environment.

- Transit stops and park and ride facilities must be designed to be active and secure facilities which support the surrounding community. This can take the form of ground floor retail or commercial functions and also joint-use agreements for ancillary parking activities. Generally, the principle of joint public/private development in and around the major transit facilities should be pursued as the opportunity exist.
- Safety and Security is a primary objective of the transit system and specific improvements, strategies and measures should be deployed to ensure maximum security and safety for transit patrons and the adjacent community.
- Transit park and ride facilities must be designed to integrate with surrounding neighborhoods; controlling and mitigating neighborhood traffic impacts and preventing neighborhood overflow parking.
- Transit park and ride facilities must be designed to facilitate non-park and ride traffic circulation, and to minimize the traffic, neighborhood, and environmental impacts of buses serving the park and ride stations as transfer facilities.
- Light rail station area planning must fully engage the Vancouver community, and be designed and constructed to the highest standard to create great urban places, and not just transit stops.
- Freeway access streets (ex. Washington, Columbia, Mill Plain, C Street, 4th Street, and 6th Street) should receive additional traffic management, intelligent transportation system, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements to integrate the freeway access function into the fabric of the downtown street network. Extra care and effort needs to be implemented at these locations to ensure maximum safety and efficient traffic operations to fulfill the operational function and complement the downtown street character.
- Intra and Inter-neighborhood multi-modal traffic circulation must be retained and enhanced throughout the project corridor; especially in the vicinity of freeway overcrossings.
- Project mitigation elements, such as sound walls, must be evaluated for impacts and alternatives, and any identified impacts must be mitigated consistent with the policies included herein.

Direct Impacts

The following areas have reflected direct impacts and those impacts must be mitigated to the full extent practicable and as required by prevailing federal, state or local laws and ordinances.

- Section 4F (including parklands and historic structures)
- Right-of-way impacts
- Noise impacts
- Water quality impacts
- Shoreline impacts
- Habitat impacts
- Air quality impacts
- Vibration impacts

- Light and glare impacts
- Transportation level-of-service, general circulation, access and parking impacts (covering auto, bicycle and pedestrian)
- Construction Disruption impacts (covering all the above listed categories including traffic circulation and business access)

Columbia River
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Metro

Locally Preferred Alternative Resolution

July 2008

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 08- 3960B
LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR)	
THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT)	Introduced by Councilor Burkholder
AND AMENDING THE METRO 2035)	
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN WITH)	
CONDITIONS)	

WHEREAS, the Oregon and Washington sides of the metropolitan region are linked by critical transportation infrastructure vital to each community along the Columbia River; and,

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate bridge is a key transportation link that has national and international importance for freight and auto movement; and,

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate bridge carries approximately 130,000 people daily by car, truck, bus, bicycle and on foot; and,

WHEREAS, the CRC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analysis found that the segment of I-5 in the vicinity of the Columbia River has extended peak-hour travel demand that exceeds capacity, includes bridge spans that are over 50 and 90 years old and that do not meet current traffic safety or seismic standards, and,

WHEREAS, techniques to improve peak truck freight movement times along with bridge and highway improvements would help support and improve the economy of the region and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, the greatest inhibition to the predictable flow of truck freight is single-occupancy automobile commuting, and according to the CRC analysis, in the absence of tolling, other demand management, and good public transit service the growth of such automobile commuting will contribute to the costs of truck delay; and,

WHEREAS, travel by transit between Portland and Vancouver currently must share a right-of-way with autos and trucks; and,

WHEREAS, the bicycle and pedestrian facilities for crossing the Columbia River along I-5 do not meet current standards, that demand for such facilities is expected to increase, and that experience on Portland bridges has proven that when safe bicycle facilities are provided, ridership grows dramatically; and,

WHEREAS, the CRC DEIS states that in the absence of tolls, absence of effective high-capacity transit service, and absence of safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities, automobile traffic and its resulting emissions and impact on climate change would continue to grow faster with the “no build” option than such automobile traffic and emissions would grow with the replacement bridge option that does include tolls, effective transit, and safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and,

WHEREAS, because of high demand and because only two road crossings of the Columbia River exist in the metropolitan region, the I-5 and I-205 corridor is very well situated for tolling, a revenue source and management tool currently not feasible for many other projects vying for public funds; and,

WHEREAS, consideration should be given to potential diversion of traffic from tolling I-5 alone to I-205 and should consider tolling I-5 and I-205 with use of the revenue for both I-5 and I-205 in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area; and,

WHEREAS, the states of Oregon and Washington have both established aggressive climate change strategies that include significant reductions in vehicle miles traveled and/or greenhouse gas emissions during the expected life of a CRC project; and,

WHEREAS, in Washington State the goal is to reduce vehicle miles traveled by 50 percent by 2050 and in Oregon the goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, the Oregon Governor's Climate Change Integration Group in its final report dated January 2008 state that "reducing vehicle miles traveled is the single most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions"; and,

WHEREAS, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is a regional goal that the Metro Council has directed that methods of decreasing such emissions be identified and pursued; and,

WHEREAS the Metro Council has concurred with the Governor's Climate Change Integration Group that reducing vehicle miles traveled is the single most effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, high capacity transit, as well as walking and biking reduce vehicle miles travelled and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the Metro region and the Federal Transit Administration have made extensive investments in high capacity transit, especially light rail transit, as the preferred high capacity transit mode in most corridors in the region, including the Interstate MAX LRT line to the Expo Center, about 1 mile from Vancouver, Washington and adjacent to Interstate 5; and,

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2002 the Metro Council approved Resolution 02-3237A, For the Purpose of Endorsing the I-5 Transportation and Trade Study Recommendations, that supported a multimodal project including light rail transit (LRT) and either a new supplemental or replacement I-5 bridge; and,

WHEREAS, the I-5 Transportation and Trade Study also included recommendations to widen I-5 to three lanes between Delta Park and Lombard, address finance issues, use travel demand tools including pricing (tolls), address environmental justice through use of a community enhancement fund, coordinate land use to avoid adverse impacts to transportation investments and improve heavy rail; and,

WHEREAS, in its October 19, 2006 letter to the CRC Task Force, the Council stated that "all transportation alternatives be evaluated for their land use implications...[because] added lanes of traffic ...will have an influence on settlement patterns and development"; and,

WHEREAS, the CRC Task Force's endorsement of a locally preferred alternative is one "narrowing" step in a multi-step process and is an important opportunity for the Metro Council to articulate its concerns which will be weighed at this and subsequent steps; and,

WHEREAS, in its October 19, 2006 letter to the CRC Task Force, the Council stated that Metro “will need to work closely with you as your project proceeds and as the RTP policies are developed to ensure that your proposals are consistent with our new policies.”; and,

WHEREAS, the CRC Task Force, a 39 member advisory committee, has met regularly for over two years creating a project purpose and need, evaluation criteria and alternatives; and,

WHEREAS, a draft environmental impact statement has been completed that assesses the potential impacts of the project alternatives including a No Build, replacement and supplemental bridge options and bus rapid transit and light rail transit as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and,

WHEREAS, a Replacement Bridge, unlike a Supplemental Bridge and/or rehabilitating and keeping the existing bridges, could improve safety by providing travel lane designs that meet safety standards including improved sight distance, greater lane widths, improved road shoulders and would eliminate bridge lifts which are indirectly a major cause of rear end accidents on and near the bridge; and,

WHEREAS, a Replacement Bridge, unlike a Supplemental Bridge, would reduce auto and truck delays that result from bridge openings; and,

WHEREAS, a Replacement Bridge, unlike a Supplemental Bridge, could improve the seismic safety of those crossing the river by auto and truck, reducing the potential for economic disruption as a result of restricted truck freight movement from seismic damage as well as reduce the potential for river navigation hazards created by seismic events; and,

WHEREAS, high capacity transit in an exclusive right-of-way would provide greatly improved transit service with much better schedule reliability and service than mixed-use traffic operation; and,

WHEREAS, LRT would produce higher total transit ridership in the corridor than BRT; and,

WHEREAS, LRT is more cost effective than Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and is about one-half as expensive to operate per transit rider crossing the river; and,

WHEREAS, the Metro Council held a public hearing about the CRC project alternatives on June 5, 2008 and,

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2008, the Metro Council approved Resolution No. 08-3938B For the Purpose of Providing Metro Council Direction to its Delegate Concerning Key Preliminary Decisions Leading to a Future Locally Preferred Alternative Decision for the Proposed Columbia River Crossing Project and that the Metro Council concluded in this resolution its support for a Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project with light rail, a replacement bridge with three through lanes and tolls for travel demand management and ongoing funding but also included substantial conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the CRC Task Force has recommended a locally preferred alternative that includes light rail transit and a replacement bridge; and,

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2007, the Metro Council approved Resolution No. 07-3831B, For the Purpose of Approving the Federal Component of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update, Pending Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and the adopted 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Financially Constrained System Project list includes Metro project number 10866, “Improve I-5/Columbia River bridge (Oregon share)” with \$74 million year of expenditure reserved for preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition, but does not include funds for project construction; and,

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2008, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 08-3911, For the Purpose of Approving the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Federal Component of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Reconfirming the 2008-2011 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, and this air quality conformity included the CRC project, highway and light rail transit; and,

WHEREAS, the CRC Project is projected to cost between \$3.5 and 3.7 billion dollars; and,

WHEREAS, a revenue forecast has been completed using best available information that shows revenue sources that could fund the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Metro 2035 RTP does not currently include a description of the proposed locally preferred alternative for the CRC Project as supported by the Metro Council; and,

WHEREAS, state law provides for land use final order to address meeting the potential land use impacts of light rail and related highway improvements in the South/North corridor of which the I-5 bridge is a part; and,

WHEREAS, at its meeting on July 10, 2008, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation recommended approval of the following; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council:

1. Continues to support a balanced multi-modal approach of highway, high capacity transit, freight movement, transportation demand management and bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the Columbia River Crossing corridor, as well as compact land use development patterns with a mixture of uses and types of housing which minimize long commutes and reduce our citizen's automobile dependence.
2. Supports a Columbia River Crossing locally preferred alternative:
 - a. a replacement bridge with three northbound and three southbound through lanes, with tolls used both for finance and for demand management, as the preferred river crossing option,
 - b. light rail as the preferred high capacity transit option, extending light rail from the Expo Center in Portland, Oregon across Hayden Island adjacent to I-5 to Vancouver, Washington,
 - c. a light rail terminus in Vancouver, Washington.
3. Finds that the following concerns and considerations will need to be addressed as described in Exhibit A, attached. Metro will invite public review and discussion on the issues raised in Exhibit A.
4. Amends the Metro 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Appendix 1.1, Financially Constrained System, Project Number 10866 to read: "Improve I-5/Columbia River bridge in cooperation with

ODOT and WSDOT with light rail transit, reconstructed interchanges and a replacement bridge with three through lanes in each direction and tolls designed to manage travel demand as well as provide an ongoing funding source for project construction, operations and maintenance.”

Further, amends the Project amount to read: “A range of between \$3.5 and \$3.7 billion.”

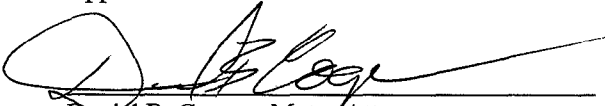
5. Amends the Metro Appendix 1.2, “2035 RTP Other Projects Not Included in the Financially Constrained System”, deleting Project number 10893, “Improve I-5/Columbia River bridge (Oregon Share)” and deleting Project number 10902, “CRC – Expo to Vancouver, north on Main to Lincoln”, as these projects are now included in the Financially Constrained System.
6. Amends the Metro 2035 RTP, Chapter 5, Financial Plan, by adding Section 5.3.4, CRC Funding Assumptions, attached as Exhibit B.
7. Amends the Metro 2035 RTP, Chapter 7, Implementation, amending Section 7.7.5, Type I- Major Corridor Refinements, Interstate-5 North (I-84 to Clark County) as described in Exhibit C, attached.
8. Defers the determination of the number of auxiliary lanes to a subsequent amendment of the 2035 RTP, based on additional analysis.
9. Acknowledges that a land use final order for addressing land use consistency for the Oregon side of the Project is being prepared and will be submitted to the Council for approval in Fall 2008.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 17th day of July, 2008.

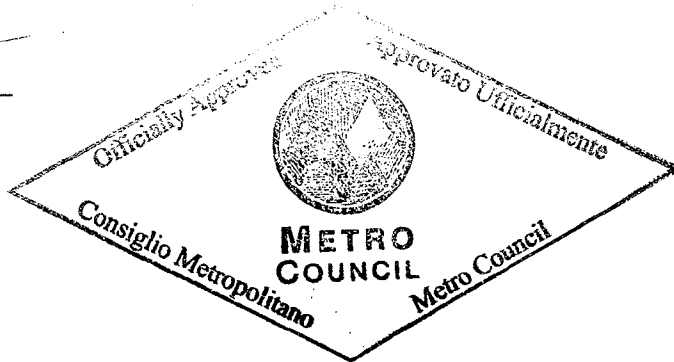


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



RESOLUTION 08-3960B
Exhibit A

Metro Council Concerns and Considerations
Columbia River Crossing "Locally Preferred Alternative"

The Metro Council recognizes that endorsement of a "Locally Preferred Alternative" is one important narrowing step that enables the project management team to proceed with further analysis of a reduced range of alternatives. The Council is cognizant that many important issues are generally still unresolved at the time of endorsement of an LPA, but that clear articulation of concerns is required to make sure that such unresolved issues are appropriately resolved during the next phase of design, engineering, and financial planning, with proper participation by the local community and its elected representatives. If those sorts of outstanding issues are not satisfactorily resolved during that post-LPA selection phase, then the project risks failing to win the approval of necessary governing bodies at subsequent steps of the process.

While the Metro Council endorses the LPA, Replacement Bridge with Light Rail and Tolls, as described in Resolution 08-3960A, the Metro Council simultaneously finds that the following issues will need to be satisfactorily addressed in the upcoming refinement of design, engineering and financial planning:

FORMATION OF A LOCAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO SUCCEED THE TASK FORCE

The Metro Council concluded on June 5, 2008 through Resolution 08-3938B that further oversight of the project is needed once the Task Force's work is concluded. The Council suggested that the Governors of Oregon and Washington convene such a local oversight group. On June 19, 2008, the Governors issued a joint letter that concluded there is a need to reconvene the CRC Project Sponsor's Council as the oversight committee to succeed the Task Force, including representatives from Washington State Department of Transportation, the Oregon Department of Transportation, cities of Portland and Vancouver, Metro, the Southwest Washington RTC, TriMet and CTRAN. The Governors charged the committee with advising the two departments of transportation and two transit agencies on a consensus basis to the greatest extent possible regarding the major issues requiring further oversight and resolution.

PROJECT ISSUES REQUIRING LOCAL OVERSIGHT DURING PLANNING, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, FINANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Governors have charged the Project Sponsors Council with project oversight on the following issues, milestones and decision points:

- 1) Completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),
- 2) Project design, including, but not limited to: examining ways to provide an efficient solution that meets safety, transportation and environmental goals,
- 3) Timelines associated with project development,
- 4) Development and use of sustainable construction methods,
- 5) Ensuring the project is consistent with Oregon and Washington's statutory reduction goals for green house gas emissions, and
- 6) A finance plan that balances revenue generation and demand management, including the project capital and operating costs, the sources of revenue, impact to the funds required for other potential expenditures in the region.

The Metro Council has identified additional areas of concern that need to be addressed by the Project Sponsors Council as the project moves forward:

A. TOLLING

Implementation of tolls on the existing I-5 Bridge should be undertaken as soon as legally and practically permissible. Consideration should be given to potential diversion of traffic to I-205 and potential tolling I-5 and I-205 with those revenues potentially used for projects on these two facilities in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

B. NUMBER OF AUXILIARY LANES

Determine the number of auxiliary lanes in addition to the three through lanes in each direction on the replacement bridge across the Columbia River and throughout the bridge influence area.

C. IMPACT MITIGATION AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Identify proposed mitigation for any potential adverse human health impacts related to the project and existing human health impacts in the project area, including community enhancement projects that address environmental justice.

D. DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Develop of state-of-the-art demand management techniques in addition to tolls that would influence travel behavior and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

E. FINANCING PLAN

A detailed financing plan showing costs and sources of revenue must be proposed and presented to the partner agencies and to the public. The proposed financing plan should indicate how the federal, state and local (if any) sources of revenue proposed to be dedicated to this project would impact, or could be compared to, the funds required for other potential expenditures in the region.

F. CAPACITY CONSIDERATIONS, INDUCED DEMAND AND GREENHOUSE GASES

Further analysis is required of the greenhouse gas and induced automobile demand forecasts for this project. The results of the analysis must be prominently displayed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The analysis should include comparisons related to the purpose and function of the so-called "auxiliary" lanes. A reduction in vehicle miles traveled should be pursued to support stated greenhouse gas reduction targets as expressed by legislation in Oregon and Washington and by the Governors.

G. PRESERVATION OF FREIGHT ACCESS

The design and finance phase of the CRC project will need to describe specifically what physical and fiscal (tolling) methods will be employed to ensure that trucks are granted a priority which is commensurate with their contributions to the project and their important role in the economy relative to single-occupancy automobile commuting. Ensure that freight capacity at interchanges is not diminished by industrial land use conversion.

H. LIGHT RAIL

As indicated in the Item 2 "resolved" in the body of the resolution, the Metro Council's endorsement of the LPA categorically stipulates that light rail must be included in any phasing package that may move forward for construction.

I. DESIGN OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

More detailed design of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is required to inform the decisions of the local oversight panel described above. The project should design “world class” bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the replacement bridge, bridge approaches and throughout the bridge influence area that meet or exceed standards and are adequate to meet the demand generated by tolls or other demand management techniques.

J. URBAN DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS AT RE-DESIGNED INTERCHANGES

More design of the interchanges related to the CRC is required to fully evaluate their community impact. The design of interchanges within the bridge influence area must take into account their impact on urban development potential. The Metro Council is also concerned that the Marine Drive access points preserve and improve the functionality of the Expo Center.

K. BRIDGE DESIGN

The bridge type and aesthetics of the final design should be an important consideration in the phase of study that follows approval of the LPA and precedes consideration of the final decision.

Chapter 5, Financial Plan of the Metro 2035 RTP, Federal Component is amended by adding the following new section:

5.3.4 Columbia River Crossing Funding Assumptions

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project is a collaboration of Oregon Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Metro, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet and CTRAN as well as the cities of Portland and Vancouver.

The CRC Project is a national transportation priority as it has been designated a “Corridor of the Future” by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Project will seek FHWA funding from this program category and other appropriate sources. Accordingly, the FHWA has indicated that it is a high priority to address the safety and congestion issues related to the segment of Interstate 5 between Columbia Boulevard north to State Route 500 in Vancouver, Washington.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awards transit capital construction grants on a competitive basis. The CRC project will be submitting an application to the FTA for entry into Preliminary Engineering and eventually for a full funding grant agreement. The Metro region has been highly successful in securing FTA funds and it is considered reasonable, based on early cost-effectiveness rating analyses, that the high capacity transit component of the CRC Project will secure the \$750 million in federal transit funding shown in the table below.

In addition, the Governors of Oregon and Washington have stated their commitment to work with their respective state legislatures to provide state funds to add to federal funding.

Also, tolling is another unique source of funding for the project. It would be a substantial transportation demand management tool as well as providing a significant revenue source. The DEIS states that tolls may supply 36 – 49% of the capital revenues for the highway elements of the project.

Finally, the state of Washington has accumulated credits from tolls imposed on other projects in the state that can be used as local match for federal funds. The state has indicated support for using a portion of these credits for the transit component of this project.

These funding sources for the total project may be summarized as follows (all figures in millions of dollars):

Columbia River Crossing – Total Project Costs
 (both Oregon and Washington sides)

<u>Costs</u>	Low	High
Highway	\$2,773	\$2,920
Transit	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>
Total	\$3,523	\$3,670

<u>Revenues</u>	Low	High
Toll Bond Proceeds	\$1,070-\$1,350	\$1,070 - 1,350
Federal Discretionary Highway	400- 600	400 - 600
State Funds	823-1,303	970 - 1,450
New Starts	750	750
Toll Credits	<u>188</u>	<u>188</u>
Total	\$3,523	\$3,670

Chapter 7, Implementation of the Metro 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, (Federal Component), Implementation (page 7-34) is amended as follows:

Interstate-5 North (I-84 to Clark County)

This heavily traveled route is the main connection between Portland and Vancouver. The Metro Council has approved a Locally Preferred Alternative for the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project that creates a multi-modal solution for the Interstate 5 corridor between Oregon to Washington to address the movement of people and freight across the Columbia River. A replacement bridge with three through lanes in each direction, reconstructed interchanges, tolls priced to manage travel demand as well as provide financing of the project construction, operation and maintenance, light rail transit to Vancouver, and bicycle and pedestrian investments have been identified for this corridor. As project details are evaluated and implemented in this corridor, the following shall be brought back to JPACT and the Metro Council for a subsequent RTP amendment for this Project:

- the number and design of auxiliary lanes on the I-5 Columbia River bridge and approaches to the bridge, including analysis of highway capacity and induced demand.

More generally in the I-5 corridor, the region should:

- consider the potential adverse human health impacts related to the project and existing human health impacts in the project area, including community enhancement projects to address environmental justice.
- consider managed lanes
- maintain an acceptable level of access to the central city from Portland neighborhoods and Clark County
- maintain off-peak freight mobility, especially to numerous marine, rail and truck terminals in the area
- consider new arterial connections for freight access between Highway 30, port terminals in Portland and port facilities in Vancouver, Wa.
- maintain an acceptable level of access to freight intermodal facilities and to the Northeast Portland Highway
- construct interchange improvements at Columbia Boulevard to provide freight access to Northeast Portland Highway
- address freight rail network needs
- develop actions to reduce through-traffic on MLK and Interstate to allow main street redevelopment
- provide recommendations to the Bi-State Coordination Committee prior to JPACT and Metro Council consideration of projects that have bi-state significance.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-3960B, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ENDORING THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER
CROSSING PROJECT AND AMENDING THE METRO 2035 REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN WITH CONDITIONS

Date: June 26, 2008

Prepared by: Richard Brandman
Ross Roberts
Mark Turpel

BACKGROUND

Overview

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) is a proposed multimodal bridge, transit, highway, bicycle and pedestrian improvement project sponsored by the Oregon and Washington transportation departments in coordination with Metro, TriMet and the City of Portland as well as the Regional Transportation Council of Southwest Washington, CTRAN and the City of Vancouver, Washington. (More detailed project information may be found at: <http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org/>)

The CRC project is designed to improve mobility and address safety problems along a five-mile corridor between State Route 500 in Vancouver, Washington, to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, including the Interstate Bridge across the Columbia River.

The project would be funded by a combination of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts funding for the transit component, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for highway, freight, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, with local match being provided by the states of Oregon and Washington through toll credits and other funding. Tolls are also proposed for a new I-5 bridge to pay for a portion of the capital project and manage transportation demand.

Guiding the project is a 39 member CRC Task Force, of which Councilor Burkholder serves as the Metro representative. On June 5, 2008, the Metro Council approved policy guidance for Councilor Burkholder as its CRC Task Force member in the formulation of the draft locally preferred alternative (LPA) (after consideration of public testimony and review of options for a LPA). On June 24, the CRC Task Force approved recommendations for a LPA for the project sponsor agencies (including Metro) consideration.

Accordingly, the attached Resolution No. 08-3960B will provide for Metro Council consideration of:

- 1) Adoption of a CRC LPA.
- 2) Amendment of the federal component of the Metro 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- 3) Statement of additional Metro Council concerns and considerations regarding the Project.

Project History

The CRC Project history began in 1999, with the Bi-State Transportation Committee recommendation that the Portland/Vancouver region initiate a public process to develop a plan for the I-5 Corridor based on four principles:

- Doing nothing in the I-5 Corridor is unacceptable;
- There must be a multi-modal solution in the I-5 Corridor - there is no silver bullet;

- Transportation funds are limited. Paying for improvements in the I-5 Corridor will require new funds; and,
- The region must consider measures that promote transportation-efficient development.

Accordingly, the twenty-six member I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership was constituted by Governors Locke and Kitzhaber, including a Metro Council representative.

In June 2002, the Partnership completed a *Strategic Plan* and on November 14, 2002, the Metro Council, through Resolution No. 02-3237A, For the Purpose of Endorsing the I-5 Transportation and Trade Study Recommendations, endorsed the *Strategic Plan* recommendations including:

- Three through lanes in each direction on I-5, one of which was to be studied as an High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane, as feasible;
- Phased light rail loop in Clark County in the vicinity of the I-5, SR500/4th Plan and I-205 corridors;
- An additional or replacement bridge for the I-5 crossing of the Columbia River, with up to two additional lanes for merging plus two light rail tracks;
- Interchange improvements and additional auxiliary and/or arterial lanes where needed between SR 500 in Vancouver and Columbia Boulevard in Portland, including a full interchange at Columbia Boulevard;
- Capacity improvements for freight rail;
- Bi-state coordination of land use and management of the transportation system to reduce demand on the freeway and protect corridor improvement;
- Involving communities along the corridor to ensure final project outcomes are equitable and committing to establish a fund for community enhancement;
- Developing additional transportation demand and system strategies to encourage more efficient use of the transportation system.

Several of the recommendations from the Strategic Plan have been completed. For example, construction of the I-5 Delta Park Project has begun.

The I-5 bridge element began in February 2005 with the formation of a 39 member Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Task Force. This Task Force, which includes a Metro Council representative, developed a vision statement, purpose and need statement and screening criteria.

The adopted project purpose is to: 1) improve travel safety and traffic operation on the I-5 crossing of the Columbia River; 2) improve the connectivity, reliability, travel times and operations of public transit in the corridor, 3) improve highway freight mobility and interstate commerce, and 4) improve the river crossing's structural integrity.

More specifically, the following issues concerning the existing conditions were cited as need:

- Safety - the bridge crossing area and approach sections have crash rates more than two times higher than statewide averages for comparable urban highways. Contributing factors are interchanges too closely spaced, weave and merge sections too short contributing to sideswiping accidents, vertical grade changes that restrict sight distance and very narrow shoulders that prevent avoidance maneuvers or safe temporary storage of disabled vehicles.
- Seismic - neither I-5 bridges meet seismic standards, leaving the I-5 corridor vulnerable in the event of a large earthquake;
- Bridge Alignment - the alignment of the I-5 bridges with the downstream railroad bridge contributes to hazardous barge movements;

- Cost - rehabilitation of the existing bridges, bringing them to current standards would be more costly, both in money and some environmental impacts, such as water habitat conditions, than a replacement bridge;
- Traffic Impact - an arterial bridge would bring unacceptable traffic congestion to downtown Vancouver, Washington.

The CRC Project analyzed 37 distinct bridge, transit, highway and transportation demand management modes/designs, which the CRC Task Force narrowed to twelve. These twelve options then received even more analysis.

In November 2007, CRC staff, after further consideration of technical analyses and using the approved screening criteria and project purpose and need, recommended three alternatives be advanced to a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). These included:

- Alternative 1) No Action;
- Alternative 2) A Replacement Bridge and Bus Rapid Transit with Complementary Express Bus Service; and
- Alternative 3) A Replacement Bridge and Light Rail Transit with Complementary Express Bus Service.

Open houses were held to take public comment about whether these three alternatives should be advanced to analysis in the DEIS. The Metro Council, other project sponsors and some members of the public expressed interest in a less expensive, smaller project alternative. Accordingly, two supplemental bridge alternatives (one with bus rapid transit, the other with light rail transit) were proposed to be added to the alternatives studied in the DEIS.

The Metro Council concurred with these five alternatives in adopting Resolution No. 07-3782B, "For the Purpose of Establishing Metro Council Recommendations Concerning the Range of Alternatives to Be Advanced to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement For the Columbia River Crossing Project," on February 22, 2007.

On December 13, 2007, the Metro Council adopted the federal component of the 2035RTP. The RTP included funds for preliminary engineering and right-of-way purchase in the financially constrained system project list for a new bridge across the Columbia River. This item was reconfirmed with the adoption of the air quality conformity determination in February 2008 that assumed a new bridge with light rail transit to Vancouver.

In a meeting of the CRC Task Force in January 2008, an informal poll was taken that initiated discussion of the LPA. Strong support was found for:

- A replacement bridge with tolls;
- Light rail transit extended to Vancouver, Washington;
- Bicycle and pedestrian path improvements.

(Councilor Burkholder, the Metro Council representative, deferred comment in this survey citing the need to confer with the full Metro Council).

On May 2, 2008, a DEIS addressing the five CRC alternatives was released for a 60-day public comment period. During that time, the CRC project received 1,120 comments on the DEIS. The CRC also held two open houses attended by 425 people and held four question and answer sessions.

Later in May 2008, review and discussion of the CRC alternatives and the potential benefits and adverse impacts as disclosed in the CRC Draft Environmental Impact Statement were discussed by the Metro Council. After consideration of the CRC documents, Metro Council work session discussions and public testimony received at a Metro Council public hearing June 5, the Metro Council approved policy guidance by adopting Resolution No. 08-3938B, "For the Purpose of Providing Metro Council Direction to its Delegate Concerning Key Preliminary Decisions Leading to a Future Locally Preferred Alternative Decision for the Proposed Columbia River Crossing Project," on June 5, 2008.

Resolution 08-3938B included the following major points:

- A multimodal approach that includes:
 - light rail transit extended to Vancouver;
 - A replacement bridge with three through lanes in each direction and the number of auxiliary lanes to be determined;
 - Tolls to manage travel demand as well as provide an ongoing funding source for bridge construction, operations and maintenance;
 - Improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities;
 - Compact land use development patterns with a mixture of housing types to minimize long commutes and reduce automobile dependence.
- Recognition that the above elements and others identified in an exhibit to the resolution will need to be satisfactorily addressed as part of the LPA or at later decision points, prior to a final decision.
- Need to address potential and existing health impacts and using a community enhancement fund to address environmental justice.
- Independent analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and whether the project alternatives would help achieve or frustrate greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for 2020 and 2050.
- Charging tolls as soon as legally and practicably possible and use of state-of-the-art demand management tool to influence travel behavior and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Recognition of the need for the Metro Council to consider an LPA adoption and an RTP amendment and that the two decisions could be made concurrently.

On June 24, 2008, the CRC Task Force, by a vote of 37-2, recommended the following:

- A replacement bridge with three through lanes northbound and southbound.
- Light rail as the preferred high capacity transit mode with an alignment and terminus based on FTA funding, technical considerations and Vancouver City Council and CTRAN votes in early July 2008.
- Formation of a formal oversight committee.
- Continuation of existing advisory committees dealing with freight, pedestrians and bicycles, urban design, community and environmental justice and creation of a new sustainability working group.
- A list of project and regional elements that have not been made final at this time, but which the CRC Project recognizes the need for consideration. (see Attachment 1 to this staff report)

In addition to the Metro Council public hearing on the project on June 5, 2008 and the CRC Task Force hearing on June 24, 2008, there were numerous public meetings, open houses, and mailings regarding the project. Additionally, the LPA and the need for an RTP amendment were discussed at the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee's (TPAC) May 30, 2008 meeting and both the RTP amendment and the LPA resolution were recommended at its June 27, 2008 meeting. The proposed RTP amendments and LPA were also discussed at the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation's (JPACT) June 12, 2008 meeting and approved at its July 10, 2008 meeting.

This proposed Resolution No. 08-3960B, For the Purpose of Endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Columbia River Crossing Project and Amending the Metro 2035 Regional Transportation Plan with Conditions, is generally consistent with the June 24 CRC Task Force recommendations. In addition, proposed Resolution No 08-3960B addresses the following:

- 1) A list of project concerns to be addressed and resolved (attached as Exhibit A to Resolution No. 08-3960B).
- 2) Amendment of the 2035 RTP to:
 - revise the Financially Constrained Project List (appendix 1.1);
 - revise the “Other RTP Projects not included in the Financially Constrained list” (appendix 1.2);
 - amend Chapter 5, Financial Plan of the RTP, to include a section on the funding of the CRC project (and included as Exhibit B to Resolution No. 08-3960B);
 - amend Chapter 7, Implementation of the RTP, to revise the description of the I-5 North corridor (and included as Exhibit C to Resolution No. 08-3960B).

(A separate RTP amendment that would revise the state component of the RTP and include land use findings is not proposed at this time and would be addressed once more information and analysis is available concerning auxiliary lanes and other issues identified in Resolution No 08-3960B.)

In addition to these immediate decisions, the following actions will take place in Fall 2008 and beyond include:

- Number of auxiliary travel lanes
- Bridge design details (such as bridge type, whether Stacked Highway/Transit design would work, be cost-effective and whether this aspect of the bridge should be pursued)
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM) specifics
- Interchange design specifics
- Bicycle and pedestrian design details
- More specificity on finance plan

The CRC Task Force’s June 24 recommendations to consider a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) will also be brought to the cities of Portland and Vancouver, TriMet and CTRAN, and Metro and the Regional Transportation Council of Southwest Washington for adoption and corresponding transportation plan amendments. These actions will allow ODOT and WSDOT to submit to the FTA an application to enter preliminary engineering to prepare a final environmental impact statement (FEIS).

¹ By July 8, the City of Vancouver and CTRAN are scheduled to conclude the alignment and terminus of the LRT line in Vancouver, Washington. In order to facilitate the bi-state transportation aspects of this draft resolution, these southwest Washington project partner decisions will be provided to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPACT), which meets on July 10 to consider this resolution and to the Metro Council that meets on July 17 also to consider this resolution. Accordingly, draft Metro Resolution No. 08-3960B may be proposed for revision in July as a result.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** The CRC is a very large and complex transportation project. There are strong feelings – pro and con – associated with the project. Opposition to the project includes concerns raised regarding the need for the project, greenhouse gas emissions that could be generated by the project, costs, tolls and light rail extension to Vancouver, Washington.

2. Legal Antecedents

Federal

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Clean Air Act
- SAFETEA-LU
- FTA New Starts Process

State

- Statewide Planning Goals
- State Transportation Planning Rule
- Oregon Transportation Plan
- Oregon Highway Plan
- Oregon Public Transportation Plan
- Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Metro

- Resolution No. 02-3237A, "For the Purpose of Endorsing the I-5 Transportation and Trade Study Recommendations," adopted on November 14, 2002.
- Resolution No. 07-3782B, "For the Purpose of Establishing Metro Council Recommendations Concerning the Range of Alternatives to Be Advanced to a Draft Environmental Impact Statement For the Columbia River Crossing Project," adopted on February 22, 2007.
- Ordinance No. 07-3831B, "For the Purpose of Approving the Federal Component of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update, Pending Air Quality Conformity Analysis," adopted on December 13, 2007.
- Resolution No. 08-3911, "For the Purpose of Approving the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Federal Component of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Reconfirming the 2008-2011 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program," adopted on February 28, 2008.
- Resolution No. 08-3938B, "For the Purpose of Providing Metro Council Direction to its Delegate Concerning Key Preliminary Decisions Leading to a Future Locally Preferred Alternative Decision for the Proposed Columbia River Crossing Project," adopted on June 5, 2008.

3. **Anticipated Effects** The approval of this resolution would allow the submission of a New Starts application for light rail transit to Vancouver Washington as well as include proceeding with the next steps towards a replacement bridge with tolls and light rail transit. It would not resolve the number of auxiliary lanes or other issues and considerations listed in the resolution but which will need to be addressed in the future once additional information and analysis is completed.

4. **Budget Impacts** If there is a role for Metro to play in the completion of the CRC Final Environmental Impact Statement (this could be additional updated travel forecasting, for example), the CRC project would reimburse Metro for any costs incurred for such work.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 08-3960B, For the Purpose of Endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Columbia River Crossing Project and Amending the Metro 2035 Regional Transportation Plan with Conditions.



**A RESOLUTION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING TASK FORCE TO
PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT
ON KEY DECISIONS FOR A LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate Bridge is one of only two Columbia River crossings between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon and approximately 150,000 people rely on crossing the I-5 Bridge daily by car, transit, bicycle and on foot; and

WHEREAS, the existing structures are aging and in need of seismic upgrade, and the closely-spaced interchanges are in need of safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, the movement of land and water-based freight is hindered by the current crossing, and

WHEREAS, high capacity transit does not currently connect Vancouver and Portland, and the bicycle and pedestrian paths do not meet current standards; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Final Strategic Plan recommended congestion and mobility improvements within the I-5 Bridge Influence Area in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing Task Force was established in February 2005, to advise the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Transportation on project-related issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing Task Force advised development of the project's Vision and Values Statement, alternatives development, and narrowing of the alternatives to five that would be studied in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing project is committed to implementing the principles of sustainability into project planning, design and construction in order to improve the natural and social environment and the regional economy whenever possible; and to minimize effects related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Metro Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet, C-TRAN, City of Portland and City of Vancouver have worked collaboratively on the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing project published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 2, 2008, disclosing the potential environmental and community impacts and potential mitigation of the five alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing project is seeking public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement from the Columbia River Crossing Task Force as well as the public through outreach events, working sessions and hearings with sponsor agencies, and through two open houses and two public hearings during the comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing Task Force has opted to confirm Key Decisions that will lead to selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING TASK FORCE MAKES THESE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT:

1. In regards to the river crossing selection, the CRC Task Force supports the construction of a replacement bridge with three through lanes northbound and southbound as the preferred option.
2. In regards to the high capacity transit selection, the CRC Task Force supports light rail as the preferred mode.
3. In regards to the alignment and terminus of the high capacity transit line, and based on the information provided to date, the CRC Task Force
 - Recognizes that the selection of the alignment and terminus options should be determined through a combination of:
 - i. Federal New Starts funding eligibility,
 - ii. Public and local stakeholder involvement,
 - iii. CRC project evaluation and technical determination of the terminus that allows for the greatest flexibility for future high capacity transit extensions and connections in Clark County, and
 - iv. Outcome of the Vancouver City Council and C-TRAN votes on July 7 and July 8, respectively.
4. Creation of a formal oversight committee that strives for consensus and provides for a public process of review, deliberation and decision-making for outstanding major project issues and decisions.
5. The Freight Working Group, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Urban Design Advisory Group, the Community and Environmental Justice Group, and the newly formed Sustainability Working Group, shall continue their advisory roles for refinement of the LPA. These advisory groups shall report findings and recommendations to the local oversight committee.

6. The CRC Task Force understands that several project elements have not been finalized at the time of this resolution. These elements will need to be satisfactorily resolved through a process that includes public involvement, recommendations from governing bodies of the sponsor agencies, and recommendations by a local advisory committee. The CRC Task Force supports the consideration of the attached list of Supplemental Positions for Future Project and Regional Consideration.



Columbia River Crossing Project
Supplemental Positions for Future Project and Regional Consideration

For Project Consideration:

The Columbia River Crossing Task Force presents these supplemental positions for consideration during the post-Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) phase of the project development process. The Columbia River Crossing Task Force supports the following in association with the CRC project:

- The continued development of a mitigation plan, including avoidance of adverse impacts
- The continued development of a sustainability plan, including the formation of a sustainability working group
- Further study and analysis to determine the appropriate number of auxiliary lanes, necessary for safety and functionality in the project area, and consistent with minimizing impacts. The project should recognize that auxiliary lanes are for interchange operations, not for enhanced mainline throughput, and design the bridge width accordingly.
- The continued commitment to provide enhancements within potentially impacted communities
- As articulated in the final strategic plan of the I-5 Trade and Transportation Partnership, establish a community enhancement fund for use in the impacted areas of the project; such a fund would be in addition to any impact mitigation costs identified through the Draft EIS and would be modeled on the successfully implemented community enhancement fund of the I-5 Delta Park Project and subsequent Oregon Solutions North Portland Diesel Emissions Reduction Project.
- Continued work to design interchanges in the project area that meet the safety and engineering standards and requirements of the Federal Highway Administration, the departments of transportation for Oregon and Washington and the cities of Portland and Vancouver, in a way that is consistent with minimizing impacts.
- Continued work to ensure that interchanges are freight sensitive and provide enhanced mobility, in a way that is consistent with minimizing impacts.
- Imposing tolls on the existing I-5 bridge as soon as legally and practically permissible to reduce congestion by managing travel demand as well as to provide an ongoing funding source for the project
- A public vote where applicable, regarding the funds required to implement the light rail line
- The development of an aesthetically pleasing, sustainable and cost-efficient river crossing that provides a gateway to Vancouver, Portland and the Northwest

- Designing the project – river crossing, transit, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities – to be a model of sustainable design and construction that serves both the built and natural environment
- The development of light rail stations that meet the highest standards for operations and design. These stations would be designed to be safe and accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities.
- Continued development of a “world class” bicycle, pedestrian facility, as well as the consideration for provisions for low-powered vehicles such as scooters, mopeds and neighborhood electric vehicles, as part of the construction of a replacement river crossing
- Ensure that the preferred alternative solves the significant safety, congestion and mobility problems in the project area while meeting regional and statewide goals to reinforce density in the urban core and compact development that is both pedestrian friendly and enhances mobility throughout the project area and the region
- Development of an innovative transportation demand management (TDM) program to encourage more efficient use of limited transportation capacity
- Independent validation of the greenhouse gas and climate change analysis conducted in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to determine the project’s effects on air quality, carbon emissions and vehicle miles traveled per capita
- The inclusion of strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and reducing vehicle miles traveled per capita. The Oregon Global Warming Commission or the Washington Climate Action Team should advise the CRC project on project related aspects that will help achieve both states greenhouse gas reduction goals set for 2020 and 2050.
- The development of a more detailed draft finance plan after the LPA is selected to define the funding and financing sources for this project from federal, state and local resources, while ensuring financial equity locally, within the region, and between the states of Oregon and Washington
- Independent review of the project’s feasibility and risks, including the project’s relationship to funding other transportation projects in the region
- Continued study of project health impacts such as those identified in the report submitted to the Task Force by the Multnomah County Health Department

For Regional Consideration:

There are system-wide transportation concerns that can only be resolved on a regional level and not by the Columbia River Crossing project. The Columbia River Crossing Task Force supports:

- Revisiting the remaining recommendations outlined in the *Strategic Final Plan* of the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Study, dated September 2002
- Evaluating other bottlenecks within the system (e.g., I-405 / I-5 loop, Rose Quarter, etc.)
- Developing a regional plan for traffic demand management in the bi-state Portland-Vancouver region that promotes a reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita

- Evaluating the effectiveness of a regional high occupancy vehicle (HOV) system
- Developing a regional plan for freight that considers the work of the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership and the CRC project's work with the CRC Freight Working Group
- Developing a web-based transit trip planning resource to plan transit trips in the Portland-Vancouver region

Columbia River
 CROSSING

C-TRAN

Locally Preferred Alternative Resolution
July 2008



BOARD RESOLUTION BR-08-019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AREA AUTHORITY (C-TRAN) BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENDORSING A LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA) FOR THE PROPOSED COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING (CRC) PROJECT, ESTABLISHING POLICY FOR FUTURE CRC PROJECT DECISIONS, AND PROVIDING DIRECTION TO C-TRAN'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (RTC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING THE CRC LPA.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (dba C-TRAN), as a municipal corporation organized under Ch. 36.57A RCW, is empowered to provide public transportation services; and

WHEREAS, C-TRAN is authorized under Ch. 81.104 RCW, to plan, develop, and implement High Capacity Transit (HCT) services; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate Bridge is one of only two Columbia River crossings between Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR and approximately 150,000 people rely on crossing the I-5 Bridge daily by car, transit, bicycle and on foot; and

WHEREAS, the existing structures are aging and in need of seismic upgrade, and the closely-spaced interchanges are in need of safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, HCT does not currently connect Vancouver and Portland, and the bicycle and pedestrian paths do not meet current standards; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Final Strategic Plan recommended congestion and mobility improvements within the I-5 Bridge Influence Area in 2002; and

WHEREAS, The CRC Task Force was established in February 2005 to advise the Oregon Department of Transportation and Washington State Department of Transportation on project related issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the CRC Task Force advised development of the project's Purpose and Need Statement, alternatives development, and narrowing of the alternatives to five that would be studied in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); and

WHEREAS, the CRC project published a Draft DEIS on May 2, 2008 disclosing the environmental and community impacts and potential mitigation of the five alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the CRC project held two open houses and two public hearings during the DEIS comment period, and received over 700 comments within the DEIS comment period ending July 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Metro Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet and C-TRAN, as sponsor agencies, are co-lead agencies in the issuance of the Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement ; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008 the CRC Task Force adopted a resolution recommending a replacement bridge with three through lanes northbound and three through lanes southbound; light rail transit; and a high capacity transit alignment and terminus that is agreed to by the City of Vancouver and C-TRAN and meets technical and federal funding requirements; and

WHEREAS, the CRC project is committed to implementing the principles of sustainability into project planning, design and construction in order to improve the natural environmental and the regional economy whenever possible; and to minimize effects related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, endorsement of an LPA is one “narrowing” step in a multi-step process and an important opportunity for the C-TRAN Board of Directors to articulate both support for the project and concerns and consideration for future decision making, which will be weighed at this and subsequent steps; and

WHEREAS, the C-TRAN Board of Directors will vote directly on several subsequent steps in this multi-step process as the project proposal evolves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the C-TRAN Board of Directors, incorporating by reference herein the above Recitals:

1. Endorses an LPA for the CRC Project as follows:
 - A. RIVER CROSSING: A replacement bridge on two structures of three through lanes in each direction with a minimum number of auxiliary lanes needed for functionality.
 - B. HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT (HCT) MODE: Light rail transit between the Oregon side of the river and the northern HCT terminus in Clark County.
 - C. HCT TERMINUS: Clark College in Clark County without use of satellite park-and-ride lots.

D. HCT ALIGNMENT:

1. The CRC HCT terminus, station placement, alignment and design must be flexible and allow for future HCT extensions and connections in Clark County.
2. The HCT alignment must permit local bus route access along the HCT alignment in downtown Vancouver.

E. HCT FINANCING:

1. Capital financing of the HCT component of the CRC Project shall be structured in such a way that C-TRAN is not required to ask voters for capital construction funding.
2. Any means chosen to finance operations of the HCT component of the CRC project shall be submitted to impacted C-TRAN voters for approval.
3. Initiation of HCT service in Clark County should provide a net service benefit to existing C-TRAN patrons, without diverting existing revenues from C-TRAN's current operating and capital costs.
4. CRC Project construction, operation and maintenance costs should be divided between Washington and Oregon according to the proportion of the project within each state. For HCT capital, operation and maintenance costs the proportions shall be calculated by dividing the length of the HCT corridor in Washington and the length of the HCT corridor in Oregon, as determined by the State DOT's acknowledged state line in the Columbia River, by the total length of the HCT corridor from the Expo Center Station to the terminus in Clark County.

F. SUSTAINABILITY: Highway, bridge and HCT design and construction should reflect principles of sustainability, cost efficiency, context sensitivity, and avoid and minimize adverse impacts.

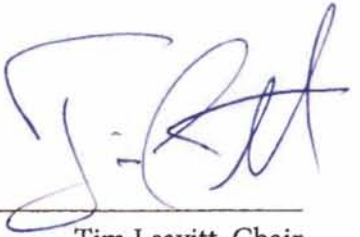
2. We support creation of a formal oversight committee that strives for consensus and provides for a public process of review, deliberation and decision-making for outstanding major project issues and decisions; which committee shall be composed of one top level elected or appointed representative from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Transportation, cities of Portland and Vancouver, Metro, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet, C-TRAN, and two representatives of the public.
3. Directs its representative serving on the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Advisory Board to support and advocate for the CRC LPA consistent with this resolution.

ADOPTED at the regular session of the Board of the Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority, this 8th day July of 2008.

AYES: Marc Boldt, Linda Dietzman, Bill Ganley, Jim Irish, Betty Sue Morris Jeanne Stewart,
Steve Stuart, Chair Tim Leavitt

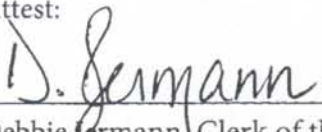
NAYS: Jeanne Harris

ABSENT:



Tim Leavitt, Chair

Attest:



Debbie Germann, Clerk of the Board

7/1/2008 dj
Board:BR CRC Endorcement.doc



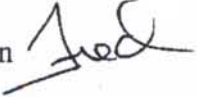
Columbia River
 CROSSING

TriMet

Locally Preferred Alternative Resolution
July 2008

Date: July 9, 2008

To: Board of Directors

From: Fred Hansen 

Subject: **RESOLUTION 08-07-58 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) RECOMMENDING CONFIRMATION OF THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT INCLUDING AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH/NORTH LIGHT RAIL CORRIDOR**

1. Issue or Purpose of the Item.

The purpose of this item is to request that the TriMet Board of Directors ("Board") approve a resolution recommending that the Metro Council amend the Locally Preferred Alternative ("LPA") for the Columbia River Crossing project including an extension of the South/North light rail corridor ("Project" or "CRC").

2. Reason for Board Action.

Metro, the metropolitan planning organization ("MPO") for the Oregon portion of the Portland metropolitan region, requests endorsement by TriMet and other local jurisdictions before adopting an amended LPA for the Project. Demonstration of local support for the Project by TriMet and local jurisdictions is very important for moving the Project forward into Preliminary Engineering. Such support is necessary because it both ensures consensus for the Project at the local level, and demonstrates to the Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") that there is both local consensus and support for the Project. C-TRAN adopted an LPA on July 7 and will forward the Project LPA to the MPO in Clark County, Washington.

3. Background.

The Metro Council adopted the South/North Locally Preferred Alternative ("S/N LPA") on July 23, 1998 and amended the S/N LPA for Interstate MAX on June 24, 1999. On March 26, 2003, the TriMet Board approved Resolution 03-03-22, recommending further amendment of the Locally Preferred Strategy for the South/North Corridor. That action was followed on April 17, 2003 by the adoption of an amended S/N LPA by Metro Council to include the I-205 Project as this region's LPA and a *Preliminary* Locally Preferred Alternative ("PLPA") for the Portland Mall Light Rail Transit alignment. That action also identified Light Rail to Milwaukie as a separate second phase of the South Corridor project. The Board also adopted Resolution 03-12-78 on December 10, 2003 to amend the S/N LPA to include the Portland Mall Project.

The CRC consists of a bridge across the Columbia River for vehicular, bike, pedestrian, and light rail transit with up to five miles of interchange improvements associated with the bridge and a light rail extension from the current terminus of the Yellow Line at Expo Center into downtown Vancouver. The Project is designed to reduce congestion and improve safety on a five-mile segment of Interstate 5, enhancing mobility and reliability for all modes across and near the Columbia River. The Project area stretches from State Route 500 in Vancouver, Washington, to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, including the Interstate Bridge across the Columbia River.

The CRC is a joint project of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Transportation, with local project partners Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, Metro, C-TRAN, TriMet, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Portland.

The CRC's 39-member Project Task Force includes leaders from Oregon and Washington's business, civic, neighborhood, freight, commuter and environmental agencies and groups. The Oregon and Washington departments of transportation formed the Task Force in 2005 to obtain input on a variety of issues in the project area, including congestion, freight mobility, high capacity transit, environmental protection and funding. Project staff coordinates with state and local agencies in both Oregon and Washington, and also collaborates with federal agencies and tribal governments. The Project has also formed citizen advisory groups to ensure the values and interests of the community are reflected in alternatives under study. These groups provide a critical link between the Project and the community.

A thorough analysis of each alternative occurred and is summarized and documented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("Draft EIS"), as required by federal law. The Draft EIS was published on May 2, 2008, which commenced a formal comment period that ended, July 1, 2008. This public comment period was used to gain public input for local decision-makers and to shape a solution that meets the community's needs. The Project's Task Force provided its recommendation on a Locally Preferred Alternative ("LPA") on June 24. Project sponsors take formal action to adopt the LPA this summer. TriMet will be represented on a Project Sponsors Council, which will be appointed by the governors of the Washington and Oregon, and will provide policy direction to the future key decisions of the Project.

The LPA for the Project includes:

- Construction of a replacement I-5 bridge with incorporation of spaces for light rail transit as well as pedestrian and bicycle use; and
- Extending light rail across the Columbia River with an alignment adjacent to I-5 on Hayden Island consistent with the City of Portland's adopted Hayden Island Concept Plan; and
- The light rail terminus in Vancouver, WA.

Issues still to be addressed by CRC project include:

- **Oversight Committee.** Creation of a formal oversight committee that strives for consensus and provides for a public process of review, deliberation and decision-making for outstanding major project issues and decisions.
- **LPA Refinement.** Refinement of the LPA through continued advisory support from the Freight Working Group, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Urban Design Advisory Group, the Community and Environmental Justice Group, and the soon-to-be-formed Sustainability Working Group (all reporting their findings and recommendations to the formal oversight committee).
- **Downtown Vancouver alignment.** CRC staff will continue to develop options and define impacts and costs of the downtown alignment, with further detail developed in time for analysis under the FEIS. The analysis will balance long-term development opportunities, with transit safety and efficiency, traffic movement, and construction costs and impacts.
- **Park and Rides.** Further analysis will be conducted on appropriate size and design for park and rides, taking the following factors into account: ridership and cost-effectiveness; impacts on downtown Vancouver street network; integration with surrounding land uses. Detailed impacts will be explored and mitigation strategies identified for the FEIS.
- **Downtown alignment design and treatments.** Stations, furnishings, roadwork and any sidewalk or other adjacent enhancements should be of a character appropriate to downtown Vancouver.
- **Station Locations.** Station locations will be generally consistent with those shown in the DEIS and will be finalized prior to the FEIS, taking into account safety; compatibility with surrounding uses; cost-effectiveness and efficiency of operations.

4. Options.

The Board could choose to amend the draft LPA language or choose alternative priorities. However, the proposed Project as described in the draft LPA is expected to be endorsed by other jurisdictions and substantial changes at this point would significantly slow the Project, jeopardizing optimal timing to seek federal funding for the Project, and disrupt regional consensus on the Project.

5. Recommendation.

The General Manager recommends that the Board approve the Resolution.

RESOLUTION 08-07-58

**RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET)
RECOMMENDING CONFIRMATION OF THE LOCALLY
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE COLUMBIA
RIVER CROSSING PROJECT INCLUDING AN
EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH/NORTH LIGHT RAIL
CORRIDOR**

WHEREAS, TriMet is authorized by Oregon statute to plan, construct and operate fixed guideway light rail systems; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2008, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Transportation, C-TRAN, TriMet, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Commission and Metro published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (the "DEIS"), disclosing the potential environmental and community impacts and potential mitigation of a new Columbia River Crossing; and

WHEREAS, the public was invited to comment on the DEIS during the public comment period from May 2, 2008 through July 1, 2008, and comments received during the comment period, including at two public hearings, two open houses, and four question and answer sessions, in addition to individual jurisdictions' public meetings and hearings, will be documented in the *Public Comment Report on the Columbia River Crossing Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (July 2008), with comments favorable toward light rail and favorable toward the alignment, stations and terminus proposed; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Task Force has recommended that the Locally Preferred Alternative ("LPA") for the Columbia River Crossing project including an extension of the South/North light rail corridor be confirmed;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:


1. **THAT** the Board of Directors recommends to Metro Council the adoption of a resolution confirming the LPA for the Columbia River Crossing project including an extension of the South/North light rail corridor as shown in Attachment A hereto, and that Metro Council amend the South/North Locally Preferred Strategy to reflect this change.

2. **THAT** the General Manager is authorized to support the project sponsors' request for authority from the Federal Transit Administration to enter into preliminary engineering in support of light rail on the Columbia River Crossing.

Dated: July 9, 2008

Attest:

Kelly Rusan
Recording Secretary



Presiding Officer

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:

M B Playfair
Legal Department

RESOLUTION 08-07-58
Attachment A

The Locally Preferred Alternative ("LPA") for the Columbia River Crossing Project includes:

- Construction of a replacement I-5 bridge with incorporation of spaces for light rail transit as well as pedestrian and bicycle use; and
- Extending light rail across the Columbia River with an alignment adjacent to I-5 on Hayden Island consistent with the City of Portland's adopted Hayden Island Concept Plan; and
- The light rail terminus in Vancouver, WA.



SW Regional Transportation Council

Locally Preferred Alternative Resolution

July 2008



July 22, 2008

**BEFORE THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION 07-08-10**

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT AND AMENDING THE 2008 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for Clark County is the long-range, regional transportation plan.

WHEREAS, the MTP is a part of the required federal transportation planning process and represents the collective strategy for developing a regional transportation system to provide mobility and accessibility for person trips as well as freight and goods movement

WHEREAS, the transportation plan is based on the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County and supports local land uses and the region's economic development

WHEREAS, the MTP identifies future travel needs, recommends policies/strategies, projects and identifies implementation programs to meet future transportation needs

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) is a proposed multimodal bridge, transit, highway, bicycle and pedestrian improvement project sponsored by the Oregon and Washington transportation departments in coordination with Metro, TriMet and the City of Portland as well as the Regional Transportation Council of Southwest Washington, C-TRAN and the City of Vancouver, Washington

WHEREAS, the CRC project is designed to improve mobility and address safety problems along a five-mile corridor between State Route 500 in Vancouver, Washington, to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, including the Interstate Bridge across the Columbia River

WHEREAS, the capital costs of the project would be funded by a combination of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts funding for the transit component, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for highway, freight, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, with additional funds provided by the states of Oregon and Washington

WHEREAS, tolls are also proposed for the new I-5 bridge to pay for a portion of the capital project and to manage transportation demand

WHEREAS, On June 24, the CRC Task Force initiated the LPA process by approving the following recommendation

- A replacement bridge with three through lanes northbound and southbound.
- Light rail as the preferred high capacity transit mode with an alignment and terminus based on FTA funding, technical considerations and Vancouver City Council and C-TRAN votes in early July 2008.
- Formation of a formal oversight committee.

- Continuation of existing advisory committees dealing with freight, pedestrians and bicycles, urban design, community and environmental justice and creation of a new sustainability working group.
- A list of project and regional elements that have not been made final at this time, but which the CRC Project recognizes the need for consideration.

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed and gave their technical recommendation to the proposed Columbia River Crossing Locally Preferred and amendment to the MTP at their July 18 meeting

WHEREAS, the CRC Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been through extensive public review

WHEREAS, the LPA has been recommended by the following: 1) CRC Task Force, 2) Vancouver City Council, 3) C-TRAN Board of Directors, 4) Tri-Met Board of Directors, 5) City of Portland Council, 6) JPACT, and Metro Council

WHEREAS, RTC Board action on this Resolution will meet the federally-required MTP amendment and will complete the adoption of the LPA by all of the Sponsor Agencies. RTC's and Metro's amended MTP's will be forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration and thereby allow the project to apply for FTA New Starts funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, based on the information findings and public comment, this resolution finds that the RTC Board supports a locally preferred alternative for the Columbia River Crossing project as follows:

- I-5 replacement bridge with three through lanes in each direction. The number of auxiliary lanes (two to three) are to be determined through further analysis. The project also includes reconstructed interchanges within the bridge influence area.
- Light rail transit as the high capacity transit mode.
- Clark College terminus with a Vancouver alignment that travels south/north on the Washington-Broadway couplet, then turns east on McLoughlin with a terminus at the Clark College vicinity.

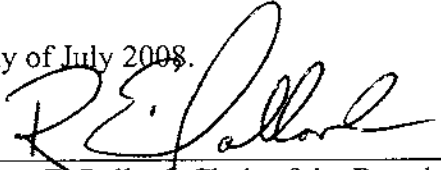
FURTHERMORE, as the project moves forward through the EIS process and to a Record of Decision, the following policy issues need to be addressed.

- The sum of the CRC project elements need to be interwoven to produce a balanced multi-modal project that includes highway, high capacity transit, freight movement, transportation demand management, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- Creation of a formal oversight committee that works as equal partners, striving for consensus and providing for a public process of review, deliberation and decision-making for outstanding major project issues and decisions. The Governors of Washington and Oregon issued a joint letter on June 19, 2008, calling for the committee to include representatives of WSDOT and ODOT, RTC and Metro, C-TRAN and TriMet, and Vancouver and Portland. The Governors' letter also called for the Council to be chaired by two citizens, one from each state.
- Direct the Bi-State Coordination Committee to evaluate the other bottlenecks within the system (e.g. I-405 / I-5 loop, Rose Quarter, etc.)

- Reflecting prior agreements between Oregon and Washington the costs for the design and construction of the I-5 replacement bridge should be shared equally between Oregon and Washington. The costs for the roadway and interchanges in each state would be covered by the respective state. For the HCT capital, operation, and maintenance costs the proportions shall be calculated by dividing the length of the HCT corridor in Washington and the length of the HCT corridor in Oregon, as determined by the State DOT's acknowledged state line in the Columbia River, but the total length of the HCT corridor from the Expo Center Station to the terminus in Clark County.
 - Given the projected inequity between States in the funding derived from tolls, we ask that the oversight committee consider alternate methods to achieve greater funding equity, such as providing Washington residents working in Oregon a deduction on their Oregon Income Taxes for tolls paid.
- A detailed financing plan including costs and sources of revenue must be proposed and presented to partner agencies and the public.
- With regards to possible tolling as a revenue source for the CRC Project, we give the following direction:
 - First, set up a process that works with and educates the public on potential tolls, modeled after (and learning from) the tolling implementation committee created by the Legislature and Governor in House Bill 3096 (creating the same for tolling the SR-520 bridge and reporting to the Governor and Legislature by January 2009)
 - Second, limit the costs of tolls to funding for the local share of the construction costs of the CRC Project within the Bridge Influence Area, and only after all other sources of Federal and State revenue are exhausted.
- Any means chosen to finance operations of the HCT component of the CRC project shall be submitted to impacted C-TRAN voters for approval
- The design of the highway interchanges, bridge, and transit facilities should reflect the principles of sustainability, cost efficiency and context sensitivity. Further analysis should be undertaken of the greenhouse gases from the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RTC Metropolitan Transportation Plan be amended to include the Locally Preferred Alternative as stated herein.

ADOPTED by the RTC Board of Directors this 22nd day of July 2008.



Royce E. Pollard, Chair of the Board


ATTEST:


Dean Lookingbill, RTC Transportation Director

Attachment: RTC Board Memorandum "2008 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment: Columbia River Crossing Locally Preferred Alternative"



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM:  Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director
DATE: July 15, 2008
SUBJECT: **2008 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment: Columbia River Crossing Locally Preferred Alternative**

BACKGROUND - MTP

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for Clark County is the long-range, regional transportation plan and is made available on RTC's web site at <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/mtp/outline.htm>. The MTP is a part of the required federal transportation planning process and represents the collective strategy for developing a regional transportation system to provide mobility and accessibility for person trips as well as freight and goods movement. The transportation plan is based on the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan for Clark County and supports local land uses and the region's economic development. The MTP identifies future travel needs, recommends policies/strategies, projects and identifies implementation programs to meet future transportation needs.

BACKGROUND - COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) is a proposed multimodal bridge, transit, highway, bicycle and pedestrian improvement project sponsored by the Oregon and Washington transportation departments in coordination with Metro, TriMet and the City of Portland as well as the Regional Transportation Council of Southwest Washington, C-TRAN and the City of Vancouver, Washington. (More detailed project information may be found at: <http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org/>.) The CRC project is designed to improve mobility and address safety problems along a five-mile corridor between State Route 500 in Vancouver, Washington, to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, including the Interstate Bridge across the Columbia River.

The capital costs of the project would be funded by a combination of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts funding for the transit component, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for highway, freight, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, with additional funds provided by the states of Oregon and Washington. Tolls are also proposed for the new I-5 bridge to pay for a portion of the capital project and to manage transportation demand.

On June 24, the CRC Task Force initiated the LPA process by approving the following recommendation.

CRC Task Force June 24, 2008, Recommendation

- A replacement bridge with three through lanes northbound and southbound.

- Light rail as the preferred high capacity transit mode with an alignment and terminus based on FTA funding, technical considerations and Vancouver City Council and C-TRAN votes in early July 2008.
- Formation of a formal oversight committee.
- Continuation of existing advisory committees dealing with freight, pedestrians and bicycles, urban design, community and environmental justice and creation of a new sustainability working group.
- A list of project and regional elements that have not been made final at this time, but which the CRC Project recognizes the need for consideration.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) will review and provide their technical recommendation on the proposed Columbia River Crossing Locally Preferred Alternative at their July 18 meeting. In addition, the CRC Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been through extensive public review. To date, the LPA has now been recommended by the following: 1) CRC Task Force, 2) Vancouver City Council, 3) C-TRAN Board of Directors, 4) Tri-Met Board of Directors, 5) City of Portland Council, and 6) JPACT. RTC Board action on Resolution 07-08-10 will meet the federally-required MTP amendment and will complete the adoption of the LPA by all of the Sponsor Agencies. RTC's and Metro's amended MTP's will be forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration and thereby allow the project to apply for FTA New Starts funding.

Attached for your information are the resolutions from the City of Vancouver, C-TRAN and Metro's JPACT committee.

LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The approval of a locally approved alternative is an action that describes the project to be advanced into further analysis, engineering, financing, and impact mitigation. The final project to be proposed for construction will not be fully defined until the final EIS and the Record of Decision are completed.

Based on the information, findings and public comment, the RTC Board supports a locally preferred alternative for the Columbia River Crossing project as follows:

- I-5 replacement bridge with three through lanes in each direction. The number of auxiliary lanes (two to three) are to be determined through further analysis. The project also includes reconstructed interchanges within the bridge influence area.
- Light rail transit as the high capacity transit mode.
- Clark College terminus with a Vancouver alignment that travels south/north on the Washington-Broadway couplet, then turns east on McLoughlin with a terminus at the Clark College vicinity.

As the project moves forward through the EIS process and to a Record of Decision, the following policy issues need to be addressed.

- The sum of the CRC project elements need to be interwoven to produce a balanced multi-modal project that includes highway, high capacity transit, freight movement, transportation demand management, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- Formation of a Project Sponsors Council to continue to guide the development of the project through the EIS process. The Governors of Washington and Oregon issued a joint letter on June 19, 2008 calling for the Project Sponsors Council to include representatives from WSDOT and ODOT, RTC and Metro, C-TRAN and TriMet, and Vancouver and Portland.

The Governors' letter also called for the Council to be chaired by two citizens, one from each state. The committee is charged with advising the two state transportation departments and two transit agencies on a consensus basis to the greatest extent possible regarding the major project development issues.

- A detailed financing plan including costs and sources of revenue must be proposed and presented to partner agencies and the public.
- The design of the highway interchanges, bridge and transit facilities should reflect the principles of sustainability, cost efficiency and context sensitivity. Further analysis should be undertaken of the greenhouse gases from the project.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT

The currently adopted MTP (December 2007) includes the CRC project in the Strategic Plan section of illustrative projects. The CRC project is not currently included in the "fiscally-constrained" portion of the MTP. Approval of Resolution 07-08-10 would amend the fiscally-constrained MTP to include the CRC locally preferred alternative. This federal requirement means that there is a reasonable expectation that revenues will be available to provide for the list of projects and transportation strategies contained within the MTP. The CRC project has developed a project funding strategy that outlines a range of potential project revenues and funding for the \$3.5-3.7 billion project.

The CRC project meets the federal and state process requirements for MTP amendment. The CRC project has been developed with extensive public participation opportunities. The CRC project team has also consulted with resource agencies and tribes throughout the DEIS and project development process. Regional air quality conformity analysis is no longer required for update and amendment to the MTP, given the air quality status of the Clark County region.

A Federal Transit Administration New Starts application for the transit portion of the CRC project will be submitted in mid-August. One of the required elements for the New Starts submittal is for the project to be in the region's approved metropolitan transportation plan.

Amending the MTP to include the CRC locally preferred alternative involves changes to Chapter 3: Regional Transportation System, Chapter 4: Finance Plan, Chapter 5: System Improvement and Strategy Plan, Chapter 7: Plan Development and Implementation and Appendices A and B.

The full set of chapters and page locations for amending the MTP are listed below:

- Chapter 3 Regional Transportation System – page 3-6, 3-7, 3-10
- Chapter 4 Finance Plan – page 4-18, 4-19, 4-30, 4-31, 4-33
- Chapter 5 System Improvement and Strategy Plan – page 5-2, 5-14 and 5-21
- Chapter 7 Plan Development and Implementation – page 7-11
- Appendices A and B – page A-2, and B-3

One of the key pages that describes the CRC LPA amendment is Table 4-3: List of Fiscally Constrained Projects 2007-2030. This table is in Chapter 4: Financial Plan. The LPA would amend the table to state that the I-5 Columbia River Crossing from SR-500 in Vancouver to Columbia Boulevard in Portland would include a "Replacement I-5 river crossing and reconstructed interchanges within the bridge influence area. Light Rail Transit with terminus in Clark College vicinity." Two other key references to the amended CRC project are also attached for the Board's

reference. These include, a project description map, and page 4-33 in the Financial Plan chapter which describes the funding assumptions for the project.

POLICY IMPLICATION

The MTP represents the framework plan and policies for development of the regional transportation system. Projects must first be identified in the MTP before they can be programmed for federal funding in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Affirmative action on Resolution 07-08-10 amends the locally preferred alternative for the Columbia River Crossing Project into RTC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Regular update and amendment of the adopted MTP is a requirement for the receipt of federal transportation funds. Federal regulations require that the MTP contain a financial plan that demonstrates consistency between proposed transportation investments and available and projected revenues. One of the federal requirements of an MTP is that it be "fiscally constrained" meaning there should be a reasonable expectation that revenues will be available to provide for the list of projects and transportation strategies contained in the MTP and to support the operations and maintenance of a safe, multimodal, transportation system. The MTP's financial plan is in Chapter 4. Based on analysis of potential revenues and cost estimates the CRC project meets the federal requirement for "fiscal constraint".