

Hines, Maurice

From: Robert Dean [robert@deansurveying.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2011 9:44 PM
To: Columbia River Crossing
Subject: CRC failed to take public input on FEIS

I sent this to my congressional representative.

P-015-001

[RCW 43.52.383](#)

[Compliance with open public meetings act.](#)

[\(1\) The legislature intends that the business and deliberations of joint operating agencies conducted by their boards of directors, executive boards, committees and subcommittees be conducted openly and with opportunity for public input.](#)

[\(2\) The board of directors, executive board, and all committees or subcommittees thereof shall comply with the provisions of chapter 42.30 RCW, in order to assure adequate public input and awareness of decisions.](#)

[I wondered how our local politicians would approve the FEIS if it detailed how local businesses would suffer "severe disruption" during 9 years of construction. How would they get reelected after condemning so many Downtown merchants to certain ruin?](#)

[Apparently, the CRC came to their rescue. They must have offered the 6 agencies the opportunity to approve the FEIS before it was finished or published so that the elected officials would not have to take personal responsibility for their actions.](#)

[C-Tran is a joint agency made up of elected representatives from Clark County and City of Vancouver. If the three City representatives on that subcommittee collude to approve the CRC FEIS they have to make their decision openly and with public input. They did not.](#)

[The City Council approved the unpublished and unfinished FEIS at a workshop June 27. No public input. <http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/jun/27/vancouver-city-council-discuss-crc-bridge/>](#)

[The C-Tran board approved the unpublished and unfinished FEIS August 9 with the unanimous consent of the City of Vancouver 3-member sub-committee. Jeanne Stewart had been previously reprimanded for voting her own conscience on the C-Tran Board. Jack Burkman stated on the Columbian Forum that the three council members had agreed to vote for the unpublished FEIS at a workshop \(presumably June 27\).](#)

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/aug/09/c-tran-board-approves-crc-impact-statement/>

[Apparently, CRC officials have conspired with officials of the 6 local agencies to shortcut public input.](#)

[Please appoint an independent outside investigator to ensure that the letter and spirit of all laws are being complied with at the CRC and our local agencies.](#)

[Thank you for your work on our behalf.](#)

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The FEIS and associated technical reports describe the impacts to businesses during construction. For more information, see Chapter 3.4 of the FEIS and the Economics Technical Report.

Significant work has gone into developing the CRC project, including an ongoing public involvement effort. The public involvement program includes numerous advisory groups to ensure that the values and interests of the community are reflected in project decisions. These groups include representatives of public agencies, businesses, civic organizations, neighborhoods and freight, and commuter and environmental groups. Feedback from the general public and advisory groups has been generally supportive of the project, including support for the transit, bicycle, pedestrian, highway, interchange, and financing elements of the project. See Chapter 2 (Section 2.7) of the FEIS for more discussion on the process used to develop project alternatives and select a Locally Preferred Alternative.

Following the close of the 60-day DEIS comment period and the selection of an LPA, a 10-member governor-appointed panel was formed to advise the Oregon and Washington DOTs on project development for the CRC project. The Project Sponsors Council (PSC) was charged with advising the project on completion of the FEIS, project design, project timeline, sustainable construction methods, consistency with greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and the financial plan, as well as the number of lanes on the bridge. The PSC made recommendations after considering technical information, receiving input from relevant advisory groups, and reviewing public comments. See Chapter 2 (Section 2.7) of the FEIS for details on the PSC's recommendations, and Chapter 6 (Public Input on the Draft EIS) and Appendix B (Public Involvement) of the FEIS for a description of public involvement activities that occurred after the DEIS was published.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/sep/12/in-our-view-progress-by-crc/>

Ryan,

P-015-001 | The Independent Review Panel called for more and better public input into the CRC. Jamie did also. Local officials have defied those instructions and now have violated Washington law.