

October 24, 2011

Federal Highway Department

Federal Transit Agency

Dear Sirs,

N-002-001

I am the Co-Chair of the Bridgeton Neighborhood and the neighborhood continues to express support for building a new I-5 bridge as quickly as possible. This weekend we held a neighborhood function where over 50 people expressed opinions about the bridge after looking at the chart of the newest plans for Option A.

For years, most of the neighbors have been apathetic about the plans to build a new bridge. They do not think it will happen in their lifetime and they have been disappointed by the proposed added drives to access the freeway by driving south on Vancouver into the heart of all of the truck traffic and then northwest on MLK and Marine Drive. People are actually enthusiastic about the plan to have access to Hayden Island on an Arterial Bridge from Marine Drive. They love the idea of being able to drive, bike or walk to Hayden Island without having to get into freeway and heavy truck traffic. They are optimistic that Hayden Island business will return. They also like the idea of a new more direct way to go to the Kenton area where half of us have our post office.

They also expressed a desire to finally have a bike and pedestrian path from the west end of Bridgeton Road to I-5 and the proposed East Side MOP or the Arterial Bridge. Yes, we would really like to see the completion of the proposed Bridgeton Trail.

Everyone did not like the idea that we would have to drive several extra miles in heavy truck traffic to be able to use the collector-distributor lanes packed with freeway bound traffic in order to drive to Hayden Island if the Arterial Bridge plan is dropped.

I know that we will be impacted for years during this construction, but I am excited about the potential for improved access when the bridge and ramps are completed. I look forward to free flowing traffic on Marine Drive when there are no longer total stops of traffic caused by the opening on the bridge and frequent accidents. It will be great to be able to drive on a free flowing Marine Drive during rush hour instead of getting caught in traffic waiting to cross over I-5, under it and then merge onto it just prior to the Hayden Island merge. This back log of traffic frequently closes access to two of our three roads that connect to Marine Drive.

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I hope that officials from the CRC, the state, and the city will continue to work with us to make an aesthetically pleasing bridge that gives us better access to Hayden Island, Portland, and Vancouver.

I am happy to express my support for the construction of a new I-5 bridge and hope that the promise of an Arterial Bridge and the East Side MOP will be retained in the project plan that goes forward to completion.

Sincerely,

Leslie Sawyer,
Co-Chair Bridgeton Neighborhood Association

N-002-001

Aesthetics will be an important consideration during final design and citizen input will be sought.

The Selected Alternative described in the ROD includes the local multi-modal bridge and the multi-use path mentioned in this comment. The project will connect the pedestrian network through the Marine Drive interchange with the western terminus of the Bridgeton Trail.

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Please see response to comment N-002-001 above.