

Hines, Maurice

From: David Madore [David.M@usdigital.com]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 7:44 PM
To: Columbia River Crossing; David Madore
Subject: CRC Light Rail Crossing Project – problem 1

24 Oct, 2011

Re: CRC Light Rail Crossing Project – problem

To: feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org

Unanswered excessive cost issue

P-060-001

Please do not approve this project. Here is one fundamental reason why it should be rejected:

In February John **Mica**, chairman of the House **Transportation** and Infrastructure Committee, at a "listening session" in Vancouver Washington. During that meeting, he held up a graph that David Madore passed to him that showed the cost of the CRC Light Rail project as extreme compared to the other recent bridge projects in the country. He asked everyone in the room why this project was off the chart in extreme expense compared to the others. He that it appeared that something was fundamentally wrong with this project that question needed to be answered.

After Mr. Mica returned to Washington, he then praised the project as though he had forgotten the red flag that indicted something was very wrong with the cost. There is no record of the excessive cost being addressed or justified. That is a problem. Such a fundamental red flag should have caused a pause in this project and a clear investigation conducted to determine the source of the anomaly. The NEPA process was not followed because other more practical less costly alternatives were not considered to resolve the prohibitively high cost.

It would be irresponsible to move forward with this project with such a glaring red flag.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter to:

David Madore
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Vancouver, WA 98684
cell: 360-601-3056

P-060-001

Although project expenditures are appropriate for a project of this type - complex, large, and inter-agency - the Project Directors and the leadership of Sponsoring Agencies are mindful of the project's costs, and are working to both reduce costs and find the necessary funding. Based on this comment, it appears that concerns Representative Mica may have had regarding the project were resolved. However, as Representative Mica has not submitted a comment on the FEIS, the project cannot make any definitive conclusions as to his perspective on the project.