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Subject: Columbia River Crossing receives federal approval
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Dear Neighborhood Leader,

Last week the Columbia River Crossing project took a major step forward when federal transportation agencies gave formal approval for the CRC project plan and validated the technical and public process to date. On December 7, 2011, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration signed a [record of decision](#) for the CRC. Signature on this document finalizes the environmental review process and formally identifies the federal agencies' selected alternative for the CRC – a replacement Interstate 5 bridge with light rail – and allows final design and construction planning to proceed.

The [record of decision](#) is a significant milestone. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a federal law requiring agencies that receive federal funding to consider the impacts to environmental, cultural and social resources from their proposed projects. The NEPA process for CRC involved comprehensive analysis with input received from more than 12,000 comments at over 1,000 public meetings. Additional information, including links to the record of decision, is available on the [CRC website](#).

As the project moves forward, CRC will continue to engage the community and local agencies in refining project designs and planning for construction. Please contact me to schedule a staff person to attend one of your upcoming meetings to provide a project update. Our presentation is about 30 minutes, but can be adapted to fit your neighborhood associations' agenda and particular interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dennis

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