

September 13, 2011

Dear Past CRC Advisory Group Member,

You are receiving this letter because of your past involvement as a member of a Columbia River Crossing (CRC) advisory group. On Sept. 23, 2011, the CRC will publish its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document is the culmination of years of planning and design discussions with project sponsors, advisory groups and the public. Advisory groups played an integral role in moving CRC through this phase of project development. I wish to personally thank you for the countless hours you dedicated to this important project.

The CRC Final EIS builds on analyses included in the Draft EIS published in 2008, DEIS comments and on the input received at hundreds of advisory group and community meetings. The input we received significantly affected the Final EIS. Advisory input led to:

- Identification of existing conditions for freight
- Selection of a two structure river crossing
- Refinement of the pedestrian/bicycle path alignment based on an analysis of future use
- Identification of the light rail alignment and station locations
- Refinement of highway interchange designs
- Expanded public outreach strategies

This document contains analyses of environmental and community effects and describes how a replacement bridge, light rail and other project elements will improve safety and relieve congestion on Interstate 5 between Portland and Vancouver. Enclosed is your copy of the Final EIS Executive Summary. The complete document and technical appendices are provided on a DVD located on the inside back cover.

There is a 30-day review period for the Final EIS that concludes October 24, 2011. It is anticipated that the federal oversight agencies, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, will select an alternative and sign a record of decision in late 2011. The record of decision signals the conclusion of the planning phase required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CRC will then continue to develop the design for the project, including additional detail on project phasing, construction staging and construction techniques.

You are invited to learn more about the CRC Final EIS at one of four informational drop-in sessions:

Vancouver

Wednesday, October 12
2 – 4 p.m. or 6 – 8 p.m.
Vancouver Community Library
901 C St., Vancouver, WA 98660

Portland

Thursday, October 13
2 – 4 p.m. or 6 – 8 p.m.
Jantzen Beach SuperCenter Community Room
1405 Jantzen Center Dr., Portland, OR 97217

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At these information sessions, full copies of the report will be available to read and technical experts will be in attendance to answer questions. Both locations are serviced by public transit; please visit www.trimet.org or www.c-tran.com for more information.

As the project moves toward refining design for construction, CRC remains committed to obtaining input from those most affected by the project. Future efforts will build upon the hard work and advice of all previous CRC advisory groups and help the project continue to move forward. I hope that you will that you will stay involved as the project progresses.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at 866-396-2726, or via e-mail at boydn@columbiarivercrossing.org. Thank you for your continued support for this project.

Sincerely,



Nancy Boyd
CRC Project Director

Encl: Final Environmental Impact Statement on DVD and Executive Summary

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