

December 16, 2011

RE: Columbia River Crossing project record of decision

Dear local and regional leaders:

Earlier this month, 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. Enclosed is your copy of the record of decision with the appendices provided on a CD located on the inside back cover.

The record of decision is a significant milestone. 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 National Environmental Policy Act 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: www.columbiarivercrossing.org.

Moving forward, CRC will continue to engage members of the public, affected property owners and stakeholders to keep them informed about project developments and receive input. Future conversations will cover topics such as design refinements and construction planning. This will include discussion with neighborhood, community and business groups and close coordination with our project partners and advisory groups.

Sincerely,



Heather Wills
CRC Environmental Manager

Encl: Columbia River Crossing project record of decision, with CD of appendices
Cc: Project Controls

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