

5-9-08

COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT

P-0115-001 | 1-5 Bridge Alternates

Strongly recommend



P-0115-002 | Replacement bridge with light rail. This is not a Portland-Vancouver neighborhood project but a major highway link between Canada and Mexico. It should not be built on the "cheap." Fair tolls should be used as many other U. S. Highway projects are underwritten. Skip the local politics and get on with this important highway project.

P-0115-003 |

P-0115-004 |

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Columbia River Crossing

P-0115-001

Preferences for specific alternatives or options, as expressed in comments received before and after the issuance of the DEIS, were shared with local sponsor agencies to inform decision making. Following the close of the 60-day DEIS public comment period in July 2008, the CRC project's six local sponsor agencies selected a replacement I-5 bridge with light rail to Clark College as the project's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). These sponsor agencies, which include the Portland City Council, Vancouver City Council, TriMet Board, C-TRAN Board, Metro Council, RTC Board, considered the DEIS analysis, public comment, and a recommendation from the CRC Task Force when voting on the LPA.

With the LPA, new bridges will replace the existing Interstate Bridges to carry I-5 traffic, light rail, pedestrians and bicyclists across the Columbia River. Light rail will extend from the Expo Center MAX Station in Portland to a station and park and ride at Clark College in Vancouver. Pedestrians and bicyclists would travel along a wider and safer path than exists today.

For a more detailed description of highway, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements associated with the LPA, see Chapter 2 of the FEIS.

P-0115-002

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments on the I-5 CRC DEIS. The project is being designed in a manner that will serve the regional and national users of the Interstate system as well as the needs of the local community. The Portland/ Vancouver area has a very active and informed citizenry who have come together to adopt numerous plans which speak to local goals. We believe that it is necessary to deliver a new facility as quickly as possible, while respecting local values.

P-0115-003

Details of the tolling system are still being refined as project development enters the final design stage, but it is assumed that a toll will be included as part of the LPA.

P-0115-004

It is important that a project, such as CRC, provide ample opportunity for input from a diverse constituency of stakeholders and jurisdictions, and that it follow a process that complies with all federal, state and local legal requirements. The project sponsors intent is to progress at a deliberate pace to ensure that we meet public interests, meet the transportation needs, address the quality of local communities and the environment, and be financially and fiscally responsible. Following publication of the FEIS, there will be a record of decision. If that decision is to move forward with one of the build alternatives, then the sponsors will progress into final engineering, finance plan implementation, and then construction.