


From: rkbvdm@aol.com 
To: [Columbia River Crossing](#)
CC:
Subject: Comment from CRC DraftEIS Comments Page
Date: Sunday, May 25, 2008 1:37:09 PM
Attachments:

Home Zip Code: 97123
 Work Zip Code: 97113

Person:
 Other -

Person commutes in the travel area via:
 Car or Truck

- P-0447-001**
1. In Support of the following bridge options:
 Replacement Bridge
 2. In Support of the following High Capacity Transit options:
 Light Rail between Vancouver and Portland
 3. Support of Bus Rapid Transit or Light Rail by location:
 Lincoln Terminus: No
 Kiggins Bowl Terminus: No
 Mill Plain (MOS) Terminus: No
 Clark College (MOS) Terminus: No

Contact Information:
 First Name: Robert
 Last Name: Bullard
 Title: Dr.
 E-Mail: rkbvdm@aol.com
 Address: Box728
 Hillsboro, OR 97123

- P-0447-002**
- Comments:
 Re: The I-5 Bridge Construction:

P-0447-001

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-0447-002

Tolling was evaluated in the DEIS and FEIS, and included in the LPA for two important reasons. First, a toll may be necessary to pay for the construction of this project, as discussed in Chapter 4 of the FEIS. Second, a toll provides a valuable travel demand management tool that encourages travelers to take alternative modes (including light rail provided by this project), travel at off-peak periods, or reduce their auto trips. This demand management reduces congestion and extends the effective service life of the facility. When the existing I-5 northbound

P-0447-002 Regardless of the alternative selected, this bridge should be built without the use of tolls! The original Interstate Highway System was constructed with tax money and should be maintained with the same. Collecting tolls adds yet another tax on the existing base and is not justifiable.

If government would quit wasting revenue on non-essential services and direct revenue to important projects such as this, there would be adequate funding to complete it without collecting additional taxes under the guise of tolls.

Robert Bullard
Box 728
Hillsboro, OR 97123

bridge was built in 1917, it was paid for with a toll. The southbound I-5 bridge, built in 1958, was also funded partially by tolls. In 2008, the Washington legislature passed enabling language for tolling on I-5, provided that each facility is later authorized under specific legislation. Once authorized by the legislature, the Washington Transportation Commission has the authority to set the toll rates. In Oregon, and the Oregon Transportation Commission has the authority to toll a facility and to set the toll rates.