

Columbia River Crossing

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Comment Form

The Columbia River Crossing project welcomes your comments on the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or any other aspect of the project or process. Please fill out this form and use additional sheets of paper if necessary. Give this form to project staff or return to the project office.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

What is your home zip code? 98663 Work zip code? 98661

Do you: (check all that apply)

- Live in the project area?
 Work in the project area?
 Own a business in the project area?

- Commute through the project area?
 Other _____

How do you regularly travel in the project area: (check all that apply)

- Bicycle?
 Car or Truck?
 Other _____
- Bus?
 Walk?

Comments:

P-0590-001 No light rail - too inflexible. Bus Rapid Transit is less expensive and flexible. Light Rail will negatively impact our

P-0590-002 city & community. We ARE NOT Washington DC, LA, New York - we are not a large city. We do not need an express train going right through our city center. If your goal is to density the development of the downtown core, putting in light rail will accomplish this goal.

P-0590-003 It appears the CRC does not really know the "rules" of an EIS and are opening themselves up wide for a "day in court"

P-0590-004 WHICH BRIDGE OPTION DO YOU SUPPORT? (please check any that you would support)

- Replace the existing bridges
 Supplement the existing bridges with a new structure
 Do nothing—make no changes to the existing bridges
 No opinion

- over -

P-0590-001

Following the close of the 60-day DEIS public comment period in July 2008, the CRC project's six local sponsor agencies selected light rail to Clark College as the project's preferred transit mode. These sponsor agencies, which include the Vancouver City Council, Portland City Council, C-TRAN Board, TriMet Board, RTC Board and Metro Council considered the DEIS analysis, public comment, and a recommendation from the CRC Task Force (a broad group of stakeholders representative of the range of interests affected by the project - see the DEIS Public Involvement Appendix for more information regarding the CRC Task Force) before voting on the LPA.

As illustrated in the DEIS, and summarized in Exhibit 29 (page S-33) of the Executive Summary, light rail would better serve transit riders than bus rapid transit (BRT) within the CRC project area. Light rail would carry more passengers across the river during the PM peak, result in more people choosing to take transit, faster travel times through the project area, fewer potential noise impacts, and lower costs per incremental rider than BRT. Additionally, light rail is more likely to attract desirable development on Hayden Island and in downtown Vancouver, which is consistent with local land use plans.

P-0590-002

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) estimates that each dollar invested in public transportation generates \$4 - 9 in local economic activity. Every \$10 million in capital investment generally produces a \$32 million increase in business sales (APTA 2007). These figures indicate that economic development opportunities have, and will continue to arise from investment in transit. Case studies of transit projects in the United States reveal that transit may increase both residential and commercial property values and attract transit-oriented development (TOD). Increased pedestrian activity near transit stations can also improve economic vitality within transit corridors. A discussion

P-059 2. WOULD YOU SUPPORT BRINGING HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT MODE DO YOU SUPPORT? (please check any that you would support)

Bus rapid transit between Vancouver and Portland

Light rail between Vancouver and Portland

Do not add high capacity transit between Vancouver and Portland

No opinion

3. WOULD YOU SUPPORT BRINGING BUS RAPID TRANSIT OR LIGHT RAIL TO THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS? (please check any that you would support)

	Yes	No	Unsure	No Opinion
Lincoln Terminus (39th and Main)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kiggins Bowl Terminus (I-5 and 45th)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clark College MOS Terminus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mill Plain MOS Terminus (15th and Main)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DO YOU WANT TO STAY INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT? | Optional

YES NO Would you like to be added to the project mailing list?

Name (First & Last Name, Organization)

Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

E-mail (enter address to receive monthly electronic updates)

Thank you!

Give this form to project staff or return to the project office:

Postal Mail

Columbia River Crossing Project
C/O Heather Gundersen, Environmental Manager
700 Washington Street, Suite 300
Vancouver, WA 98660

Fax

360-737-0294

E-mail

DraftEISfeedback@columbiarivercrossing.org

Submit Online Comments

www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org

Draft EIS information

www.columbiarivercrossing.org/CurrentTopics/
DraftEIS.aspx

Comments must be postmarked by July 1, 2008



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of TOD can be found in Chapter 3 (Section 3.4) of the DEIS and in the Chapter 3 (Section 3.4) in the FEIS.

The DEIS and FEIS identify the potential for TOD around the new light rail stations on Hayden Island and in downtown Vancouver. This development is often pedestrian friendly, compact, and mixed-use, and could change the type and character of retail businesses in these areas to serve this change in urban character.

P-0590-003

Extensive technical and public review and input has been included in all phases of the CRC project, from developing a purpose and need statement, screening a wide variety of alternatives, and developing a Draft and Final EIS. A supplemental draft is required if changes to alternatives after the draft are substantial and/ or if there are new significant impacts not previously discussed in the draft and/or there are changes in laws or regulations after the draft. The DEIS identified potential mitigation measures for all potentially significant as well as many non-significant impacts, and the FEIS further analyzes and develops mitigation measures and plans to a higher level of detail and refinement. CEQ NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1502.9(c)) do not require agencies to prepare a supplemental draft EIS just because an FEIS includes refined alternatives and additional information. Such changes are typical and expected in the planning process, and are consistent with CEQ and FHWA NEPA regulations. Between publication of the DEIS and FEIS, FTA and FHWA prepared three NEPA re-evaluations and a documented categorical exclusion (DCE) to complete changes in the project since the DEIS. The NEPA re-evaluations addressed the change in the project from: 1) the 17th Street transit alignment, 2) the composite deck truss bridge type, and 3) all other changes in design between the DEIS and the FEIS. The DCE addressed the impacts from the track work on the steel bridge.

Both agencies concluded from these evaluations that these changes and new information would not result in any significant environmental impacts that were not previously considered in the DEIS. For more information, see Appendix O of the FEIS.

P-0590-004

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.