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Columbia River Crossing

To Heather Gundersen:

June 3, 2008



**P-0871-001** We are responding to the Columbia River Crossing proposed bridge. We have no issue as to having the bridge only the possibility of a tollbridge. Listed below are some reasons why. 

1. Idling vehicles with the corresponding pollution and gasoline usage
2. Traffic problems such as traffic jams
3. Stress on drivers
4. Setup costs and costs to administer, monitor and audit such a toll system

**P-0871-002**

**P-0871-003** To pay for the bridge we believe it best to add a bridge fee to the price of gas. Over a period of time this should pay for the bridge. Thanking you in advance for reading this letter

Sincerely,

Richard Watson and Mary Watson  
17165 NW Countryridge Dr.  
Portland, Oregon 97229

(503) 645-5993

PS. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

**P-0871-001**

Details and policies for the tolling system will be decided by the transportation commissions and legislatures of both states. However, the project has proposed and assumed that an electronic tolling system will be used. Electronic tolling collection (ETC) is a cashless toll collection system using the latest electronic technology. ETC promotes free-flowing traffic by eliminating the need for toll booths and allowing all vehicles to pay a toll without stopping.

ETC systems in use today allow drivers to purchase an inexpensive, credit card sized transponder that is placed on the inside windshield of their car. When driving through the toll collection point, radio equipment above the road scans the transponder and deducts the toll from the user's account. User accounts could be linked to a credit or debit card, or they could be prepaid.

Infrequent travelers without a transponder would be charged via a video camera that can quickly scan and photograph license plates. A bill for the cost of the toll and a processing fee can be sent to the registered vehicle owner.

All personal information necessary to use the ETC system would be maintained by the State DOT, as is now being done with WSDOT's Good To Go! Program that is collecting tolls for facilities such as the Tacoma Narrows bridge. The use of this information, like all personal information provided to the state, will follow state privacy guidelines.

**P-0871-002**

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traffic by eliminating the need for toll booths and allowing all vehicles to pay a toll without stopping.

The administration of such a system is a cost of the project and of the system's operation. However, the use of the system still provides a large financial benefit to the project enabling its construction during a time of limited state resources. Also, the administration of the ETC enables the facility to operate without toll booths, and without the delays associated with booths.

**P-0871-003**

The federal and state portions of the project's financing will be derived from a number of sources. As you know, the gas tax provides a stream of funding which has already been identified to help pay for the bridge. An increase in the gas tax has been discussed, but not specific to the CRC project. For more information on project financing, please refer to Chapter 4 of the FEIS.