



From: [Ralph & Charlene Welch](#)
To: [Columbia River Crossing](#)
CC:
Subject: yes to light rail
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 11:36:14 AM
Attachments:

P-1094-001 We are in favor of light rail because we are in favor of a livable connected Vancouver and Clark County. It is time for elected officials and citizens to make bold decisions that will shape our future for years to come. Light rail as part of an overall improved transportation system will bring a number of benefits. It will reduce our dependence on driving. It will promote commerce along the line. It will push us to review our land use policies. It will show our children that public transit is a useful and practical method for getting around. Our family is a middle class two car family. We can afford to drive but prefer not to whenever possible. We are raising our children to understand that walking, biking, light rail, and bus really can get you around and that driving is not the only way to go. However, many families cannot afford to drive and truly need an improved transportation system in Clark County. Let's think long term and big picture. Let's invest in an integrated and connected transportation system that benefits the families of today and the future.

P-1094-002 We encourage CRC outreach to include more information on the potential connectivity within Clark County. We believe that light rail over the river and up Main is the way to go. We believe it sets the stage for connections both north and east within the county. Our lifestyle includes fewer and fewer trips to Portland. It will be great to be able to take light rail there when we need to. It will be really great when we can take light rail in coordination with C-Tran all around Clark County.

P-1094-003

P-1094-001

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-1094-002

The CRC project is focused on alleviating congestion and improving safety within its defined five mile project area of I-5. The project will extend light rail from the Expo Center in Portland to a terminus at Clark College in Vancouver. Though this project will not extend light rail further into Clark County, the light rail line could be connected to a larger transit network in the future. The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is a partner agency of the CRC project. Project staff closely coordinates with RTC and regularly attends their

Sincerely,
Ralph and Charlene Welch
Vancouver WA

board meetings. Project staff attended open houses and a sounding board meeting for the High Capacity Transit System Study to discuss the CRC and answer questions with public attendees. More information on future plans for high capacity transit in Clark County can be found in the Final Report of the High Capacity Transit System Study conducted by RTC.

P-1094-003

The CRC Project is focused on providing a high-capacity transit option through downtown Vancouver to Clark College. RTC has completed a High-Capacity Transit System Study which recommends specific high-capacity transit improvements, including light rail, bus rapid transit and bus service improvements that will best serve Clark County residents in the mid-term (by 2030) and long-term (beyond 2030). To view their Final HCT System Study, visit RTC's website at www.rtc.wa.gov. Though these recommendations are designed to connect with CRC transit improvements, they are not part of the CRC project.