



Project eUpdate - June 2009

Thank you for reading the Columbia River Crossing email update.

In this issue:

- CRC hosts events on tolling and project updates
- Project Sponsors Council recommends two-structure I-5 bridge

CRC hosts events on tolling and project elements

The CRC will host several events to hear directly from people who use and depend on the region's transportation system. At the events, we will bring new information and ask for the public's thoughts.

Two open houses will provide updated information on bridge design, light rail planning and design, interchange design, finance plan and tolling, and environmental review. Two listening sessions on tolling will provide opportunity for decision-makers to hear your thoughts on how tolling can best be designed to raise revenue and manage traffic congestion. Participants will review and comment on tolling choices and provide suggestions for additional options to study.

Multiple sources will be necessary to fund construction of the CRC, including federal, state, regional and local sources, and tolls. Specific toll collection strategies have not yet been identified, but tolls would be collected electronically to avoid the need for toll booths and keep traffic moving.

Potential tolling scenarios for the CRC project are being considered by a Tolling Study Committee, composed of leaders from the Washington and Oregon transportation departments. The committee's report about the community's preferences will be provided to the Washington and Oregon transportation commissions and legislatures in January 2010 for their consideration when setting tolling rates.

You are invited to attend any of these events.

Open Houses:

- Tuesday, June 23, 2009
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Jantzen Beach SuperCenter (Across from the food court)
1405 N. Jantzen Beach Center, Portland
- Wednesday, June 24, 2009
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay (River Rooms)
100 Columbia Street

Vancouver, WA 98660

Tolling Listening Sessions

- Tuesday, June 30, 2009
6 – 8 pm, presentation at 6:30 p.m.
Washington State Department of Transportation, SW Region, (Room 102)
11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA
- Wednesday, July 1, 2009
6 - 8 pm, presentation at 6:30 p.m.
Jantzen Beach SuperCenter (Across from the food court)
1405 N. Jantzen Beach Center, Portland

Project Sponsors Council recommends two-structure I-5 bridge

At its June 5 meeting, the CRC Project Sponsors Council unanimously recommended that the I-5 replacement bridge be a two structure crossing. With two structures, north and southbound traffic would travel on separate bridges. Light rail could travel beneath the deck of the northbound structure. The pedestrian and bicycle path could be located beneath or at deck level on the southbound structure. Further work is needed to determine which travel modes use the top deck.

A two structure crossing provides many benefits, including a smaller environmental footprint and easier river navigation. With a confirmed number of structures the project can determine general alignment, pier spacing, and related environmental effects of the river crossing. A biological assessment of effects resulting from the crossing can now be conducted and will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, expected in 2010.

Before a final bridge design can be determined, several decisions are needed. Project staff will continue to work with advisory groups, resource agencies, federal, state and local partners, and the public to refine plans.

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