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CRC advisory group recommends Hayden Island light rail station design criteria

PORTLAND – A Columbia River Crossing citizen advisory group adopted design criteria this week to ensure the new Hayden Island light rail station becomes a central gathering place for residents and is fully integrated into the adjacent retail area.

The Portland Working Group (PWG) represents the interests of Hayden Island. The 13-member group has been meeting since May 2009 to identify and communicate the transit needs for the unique island community. The PWG’s recommendations will now be used by CRC staff as engineering and design work continues on the 2.9 mile extension of the MAX light rail system from the Expo Center in north Portland, across Hayden Island to Vancouver.

“We are making progress and moving forward,” said Pam Ferguson, Hayden Island Mobile Home Community representative. “I am happy with the design principles.”

The PWG recommended the station serve as a key component of the community, with an accessible, inviting plaza which is fully integrated into the adjacent retail area. The station should reflect the history of the island and be a gathering place for residents and visitors. The light rail station is central to the City of Portland’s recently approved Hayden Island Plan. The PWG also encouraged CRC to work closely with the City to fulfill the plan’s objectives.

In response to questions about pedestrian access, CRC and PWG expanded the scope of the committee’s work to include studying pedestrian access issues on the island. “We welcome PWG’s input. The CRC team is committed to making this the best project possible for the island,” said Steve Witter, CRC Transit Manager.

As part of the design process, the PWG hosted a community workshop on Sept. 30. About 50 people gathered to provide input into the design concepts. Architects and urban designers worked with the PWG and community to develop the design principles.

The Hayden Island Station is the last MAX stop in Portland before crossing the river to Washington. The light rail extension will improve connectivity, reliability, travel times and operations of public transportation between Vancouver and Portland.

More information about the PWG may be found at

<http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org/ProjectPartners/PortlandWG.aspx> .

About the project

CRC is a comprehensive, long-term project to reduce congestion, enhance mobility and improve safety on I-5 between SR 500 in Vancouver and Columbia Boulevard in Portland. The project will replace the I-5 bridge, extend light rail to Vancouver, improve seven interchanges, and enhance the pedestrian and bicycle path between the two cities. Cost estimates for the project range from \$3.1 to \$4.2 billion, a portion of which would be financed by tolls. More information may be found on the CRC project Web site: <http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org>.