



The Joint Committee on the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project

Testimony at Hearing Feb 11, 2013

My name is Walter Valenta.

I am the chair of the CRC#COR group.

We represent the three Portland neighborhoods at the center of the Bridge project.

Here today are:

Ron Schmidt, the chair of HiNoon, Hayden Island Neighborhood Network,

Leslie Sawyer, chair of Bridgeton Neighborhood Association,

Maryhelen Kincaid, chair of East Columbia Neighborhood Association,

plus several other members of the CRC#COR Group

Together we represent the communities that live along the Columbia River, in homes and condominiums, in manufactured homes, and in floating homes.

We are the communities that are the most directly impacted by the CRC project.

Our communities are impacted by the bridge already.

We live with the Interstate Bridge back-up everyday.

The only way now to get to Hayden Island is on I-5.

When the bridge lifts up - our world stops.

We have been impacted by 10 years of debate about the Bridge.

We live under the shadow of this proposed project.

Do you know what it is like to own a property or live in a floating home, that's on list of property that is going to be condemned, someday, maybe.

Our communities will also be the most directly impacted by the construction of the CRC.

So after a decade of debate, our communities will endure another decade of property condemnations,

bridge staging and construction,

intersection realignments and

finally demolition of the existing bridges.

Now over the years the CRC has had many official advisory groups. I have been involved in many of them. Gov. Kitzhaber, the first time he was elected, appointed me to serve on the initial I-5 Partnership study. Gov. Kulongoski appointed me to the CRC Task Force. I as well as other members of the COR group have participated on many advisory groups which helped refine the Bridge plan.

Those committees are active for while, sometimes even for years, then finish the work on their topic and sunset.

We established the CRC#COR group to provide continuity to the communities voice throughout the entire Bridge process, even when there are not official CRC advisory group being active.

Our members are not only the chairs of each of the directly impacted official neighborhood associations, but our membership also includes citizens who have participated in every official project advisory group.

The COR Group's purpose is to keep our communities informed and to provide ongoing, meaningful feedback to the Bridge project. We also provide a forum where Citizens, City & Metro staff, and Project team members can talk together without bureaucratic silos. We feel our involvement has made the project better.

We intend to continue our active engagement with the project as it takes the next step toward construction.

So we are here, representing the most directly impacted communities.
We are here, engaged and knowledgeable citizens who have been at the table continually, year after year,
We are here, to speak to you today as one voice.

Make Oregon's commitment to the Bridge.
Support Oregon's investment of \$450 million into this project.

Thank you,

Walter Valenta
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