

Representative Kotek and Senator Shields,

I am writing to you both as my representatives to share my concerns regarding the CRC (also known as the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project).

The need to provide transit, bicycle and pedestrian links between Vancouver and North Portland is an urgent concern, but it is clear to me that bundling these improvements together with a massive freeway expansion has produced a project that is almost guaranteed to be wasteful and imbalanced.

I have anxiously watched as the costs of the project ballooned, and now it appears that projected toll revenues cannot be expected to ensure the solvency of the project. As a State whose financial health is in question, taking on a share of this massive liability is irrational at best. Meanwhile, I cannot see any long term livability benefits gained from freeway expansion in my neighborhood. It seems to me that we gain very little for the very heavy price of the project, and more fine grained and sensitive interventions are called for.

I encourage you both to consider legal possibilities for instituting de-congestion tolling on the existing bridge as an alternative to any massive capital projects. With the current economic climate, it seems self evident that the State must use creative and affordable means to achieve its ends; and the success of effective de-congestion pricing in Stockholm and London shows that we can improve personal and freight mobility on the I-5 corridor with the simplest means.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this important issue.

Regards,  
Torsten Anderson