

**Everyone, a project much like the De-funk Mt. Hood Freeway is being attempted to be pushed through the Legislatures of Oregon and Washington. It has legs in the Federal Government too. It is the Columbia River Crossing or referred to as the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project. This project has to potential of taking from our economy, the pockets books and treasury in combination an amount approximating \$10,000,000,000- Billions of Dollars. This is the estimated fully burdened total cost this project, including interest and tolls, that many believe has NO-Justification, when compared to alternatives that provide greater benefits, at less cost.**

**Clark County Government just past a Resolution to oppose the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project. The overwhelming majority in this SW Washington County where Vancouver is located, have voted to say NO to this project and its intrusion of Light Rail and now so has the county government. This ground swell from all political sides of the spectrum are coming together to ask everyone to tell governmental leaders to "Just Say NO", to this unjustified CRC Project.**

**Let look at the impacts. This CRC Project has the real probability of also taking the next 20-years of Regional Federal Transportation funding and putting it into this one project. If the is CRC Project gave us a Return on Investment, that is one thing. However it has all appearances that it will not. It does not solve congestion problems in the I-5 corridor and it also leaves us virtually NO ability to fund any project anyplace else. It attempts to fix one little piece and leaves the vast majority of the I-5 corridor still broken beyond our ability to affordably repair and/or upgrade it.**

**Freight movement, critical to the economy and jobs will still not be enhanced to a degree necessary in the corridor. It basically eliminates our ability to fix or replace the highly congested Freight Rail Bridge and river freight needs. Trucks will still not find a I-5 corridor or I-205 corridor expanded or improved. It eliminates our ability to be pragmatically address the needs of virtually any and all transportation needs within all counties in the States of Oregon and Washington. This huge sponge**

**drains - dries up all coffers and that is the realization that informed people have come to learn.**

**Those are my opinions, but that is where this forum comes in. This CRC Facts Forum is an opportunity where you can hear and evaluate yourself, if the independent authorities are capable of presenting the Facts on the CRC Project - Proposals to where you also agree that this project that proposes to replace the I-5 Bridges is not justified. This is where you will be given the ability to separate the "Wheat from the Chaff", without filters, just the Plain Facts, the complete truth on this Mega SW Washington and Portland Region Transportation project that has this potential of bankrupting the system and virtually all of us.**

**No-one in government or in the legislatures should attempt to make decision on any legislation associated with the CRC Project until you have attended this forum. This is a must attend event, if you want the Facts and you want to know what this can mean to you. Remember this is about \$10,000,000,000-Billion Dollar sponge of money being taken, that will affect just about everything.**

**Paul Edgar**

<http://m.columbian.com/news/2013/feb/17/crc-needs-a-change-of-direction/>

This is just an example of the need to completely revise this Interstate-5 Bridge Replacement Project (CRC). It is not going anyplace in the State of Washington. To continue to spending funds at record levels (approximately \$165-Million to date) it is irresponsible on this flawed project. Please everyone, after 15-years auditing and being part of this flawed process, it is time to apply some common sense. This is the wrong bridge, with the wrong plan, at the wrong time, without adequate benefits and returns, that has better alternatives, that cost less and provide more benefits than the CRC - I-5 Bridge Replacement Project. PLEASE LISTEN!

This project if funded, will have devastating effects on the economies and treasuries of both the State of Oregon and Washington. It has been estimated to be a \$10,000,000,000-Billion Dollar sponge, in total implications, fully burdened, with all interest, tolls and costs. It does not solve freight mobility problems. It disproportionately hurts low income working families, with the need for these very high tolls. It will put virtually all local **"Job Creating" Transportation Projects in Jeopardy**, when most all MAP Federal Funds are allocated to this one project over possibly the next 20-years. We will be all handicapped by this, frozen in our tracks unable to do most anything, responsible with future transportation needs. This kills us within most all of our critical Transportation Projects within Clackamas County and most all counties over Oregon and Washington.

This Interstate-5 Bridge Replacement Projects (CRC) is the wrong allocation of our resources and energy to make positive things happen, for the citizens of Oregon and Washington.

Paul Edgar, Personal Comments

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