

February 11, 2014

Dear House Transportation and Economic Development Committee,

I write you concerning HB 4113. Please DO NOT add language that includes the Columbia River Crossing. As a council member of Washougal, WA and Board of Director with C-TRAN I have been up close and personal with this project for the last 2 years. The City of Washougal passed a resolution against the CRC as presently designed. Clark County has voted NO on light rail and YES on a third bridge to the east.

I am hearing that the word in Oregon is that Washington legislature failed to act. NO, that is the farthest from the truth. Washington legislature voted the voice of reason. They did their homework on the failure of the last decade+ of poor management and design, traveled SW Washington listening to their constituents and then the legislature ACTED. They voted NO on funding this current design with light rail driving the cost so high that our great-grandchildren will be paying the multi-billion dollar cost of this decision. Washington Legislature defunded the CRC, closed the Vancouver office and called for an audit.

Please do not let CRC as it is currently designed destroy our bi-state relationship. Say NO to CRC light rail and let's get back to the drawing board with practical and affordable solutions.

Attached: Washougal Resolution

Joseph Cartright, Economist, article in the Oregonian:

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/02/crc_deserves_a_vote_of_no_conf.html

Thank you,

Connie Jo Freeman
Washougal City Council
(360) 835-8501

Resolution No. 1066

A Resolution of the City of Washougal regarding the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Locally Preferred Alternative

Whereas, there is a necessity to increase vehicular transportation capacity between the Portland metro area, Clark County, and the surrounding areas across the Columbia River; and

Whereas, the current I-5 bridge does not provide adequate capacity for traffic during peak hours, has delays caused by a bridge lift, and needs structural reinforcement due to age; and

Whereas, the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Locally Preferred Alternative project replaces the existing I-5 bridge at a cost of \$3.5B, includes Light Rail, and Tolls up to approximately \$4 each direction; and

Whereas, if such toll levels are implemented, there will likely be an increase in traffic on the I-205 bridge, impacting the commutes of Washougal residents traveling to Oregon; and

Whereas, this diversion of traffic may result in both States implementing a toll on the I-205 bridge, which would seriously and adversely impact the finances of Washougal residents; and

Whereas, Washougal voters recently voted against a proposition to increase sales taxes to fund the Operations & Maintenance of CRC Light Rail and a 4th Plain bus rapid transit project; and

Whereas, the City Council heard from Washougal citizens at a recent Town Hall meeting where serious concerns were expressed regarding the CRC Locally Preferred Alternative, even by some who were generally supportive of the project; and

Whereas, the State of Oregon has recently approved a share of funding for the CRC Locally Preferred Alternative, and similar funding is currently being considered by the Washington State Legislature; and

Whereas, our legislative delegation has requested that the Washougal City Council communicate its position regarding the CRC, Locally Preferred Alternative; and

Whereas, the City Council wishes to state its position regarding the CRC Locally Preferred Alternative;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Washougal, as follows:

1. The City of Washougal cannot support the CRC Locally Preferred Alternative in its current form, including the light rail component.
2. The City of Washougal is opposed to tolling the I-205 bridge.
3. The City of Washougal recognizes that the I-5 bridge is not sufficient for today's traffic.
4. The City of Washougal urges the Washington Legislature and the Washington State Department of Transportation to pursue a more cost effective alternative to the CRC Locally Preferred Alternative, including the possible addition of new bridges of adequate height east of the I-205 Bridge and west of the I-5 Bridge.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Washougal on the 8th day of April 2013.

City of Washougal, Washington



Sean Guard, Mayor

ATTEST:



Finance Director/City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney