

What We're Hearing

The themes heard are a snapshot from this four week period and do not represent a scientific survey. They are meant to provide Task Force members with a flavor of the comments the project is receiving. A more comprehensive summary of public comments received will be provided in advance of the February Task Force meeting in preparation for making a final recommendation on the choice of DEIS alternatives.

Public comments were received in these forms:

- Emails: 20
- Short comment forms: 13
- Long comment forms: 2
- Proposal: 1
- Letters: 4
- Meeting summaries: 11

River Crossing generated the most public comments with more than 40. Of those, 10 said to keep the existing bridges for future transportation purposes. Six comments supported the proposal to replace the existing bridges and six comments supported ideas for a 3rd river crossing. Many of the comments received were questions from people seeking more information.

Transit generated nearly two dozen comments, nine specifically supporting light rail and two listing their opposition to light rail. Other comments related to commuter rail, support for improved public transit, and general questions.

More than a dozen comments related to **cost, financing and tolling**. Most of the comments were in the form of questions. Two comments were in opposition to a toll.

Highway design and alignment generated a dozen comments. Most related to highway design ideas for Hayden Island and were generated from a “mini workshop” held there during this period. Hayden Island residents are generally not supportive of removing the I-5 interchange on the island.

Several comments related to concerns with **neighborhood impacts** from air pollution and noise generated from highway construction or increased traffic. Several other questions related to **coordination with other agencies/decision-making**.

Nearly two dozen comments were classified as “**miscellaneous**” because they were outside the scope of the project.

Other comments that received less than a handful of comments related to the following: transportation issues outside of the project area, freight, and seismic safety.

Where We've Been

In the past four weeks, CRC staff has been to the following events. The number of people reached is in parentheses.

Neighborhoods

Washington:

- Bennington Neighborhood Assn. (15)
- Harney Heights Neigh. Assn. (18)
- Shumway Neigh. Assn. (15)

Oregon:

- East Columbia Neighborhood Assn. (25)
- Arbor Lodge Neigh. Assn. (15)
- Piedmont Neigh. Assn. (10)
- Hayden Island Mobile Home Owners and Renters Association (41)

Other

- Identity Clark County board (15)
- Say Hey! NW Partners in Diversity Event (15)
- Oregon Highway Users Alliance (19)
- Wyeast Middle School (250)
- Youth Town Hall, Clark County (9)
- SW Region WSDOT open house (41)
- Columbia Corridor Association (18)
- Kiwanis, Boulevard Chapter, Van. (22)
- Task Force Meeting (22 guests)
- Opus Northwest, Portland (11)
- Portland Freight Committee (26)
- Felida Neigh. Park Dedication (10)

The Totals

597 people reached in this 4 week period.

3,726 people reached since March 1, 2006.

What else is happening?

Clark County Youth Summit

Clark County junior and senior high school students attended the annual Clark County Youth Summit. The Columbia River Crossing was the focus of a short seminar on transportation at this county-sponsored event. Students received an introduction to transportation projects and delved into some of the specific issues surrounding the CRC project. It was a great chance for students to learn about what is happening in their area and an opportunity for staff to find out more about the concerns and priorities of the region's upcoming generation.

Community and Environmental Justice Group

The CEJG will meet on Thursday, November 30. Topics of discussion include the role of the group in the decision making process and the staff recommendations to the Task Force.

Media Coverage

- The Columbian – Oct. 24: The CRC project was cited as a reason for relocating railroad lines on the Washington side of the Columbia.
- The Oregonian – Oct. 26: In a report on the new executive director of C-TRAN, CRC and the decision of whether or not to extend light rail was mentioned.
- The Columbian – Oct. 26: Front page story on the project with specific reference to the Task Force and the decisions ahead.
- The Oregonian – Nov. 14: In a report on changes to C-Tran's service, the incorporation of high capacity transit into the CRC project was mentioned. A presentation on BRT that C-Tran received also was referenced.

Outreach Materials

- Staff distributed English, Vietnamese, Russian and Spanish copies of *Bridgenews*, CRC's most recent **newsletter**, at a variety of community hubs in and around the project area.
- One of the **traveling informational displays** was at the Salmon Creek Library this month. Other possible locations in North Portland and Hayden Island are being researched to house a display in the coming weeks.
- CRC's first **podcast**, an audio file available for download from websites, has finished production and will be available on the website soon.
- The second edition of *Bridgenews* is in the works and is expected to be mailed in early January. This issue will focus on the staff recommendation for river crossing and transit decisions, the schedule for the January open houses, and the upcoming period of public input.



Public Outreach Efforts planned for Decision on DEIS Alternatives

Meetings and Events

January Open Houses

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Battle Ground Police Dept Training Room
507 SW First St., Battle Ground

Saturday, January 20, 2007
9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Lincoln Elementary School
4200 Daniels St., Vancouver

Thursday, January 25, 2007
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Oregon Association of Minority
Entrepreneurs (OAME)
4134 N Vancouver Ave., Portland

Neighborhood and Community Meetings

Presentations have been scheduled with the following groups in December and January and will focus on the February DEIS decision: Cascade Park Kiwanis, Portland downtown Kiwanis, Hayden Island Neighborhood Network, Vancouver Rotary, Shumway Neighborhood, Esther Short Neighborhood, Vancouver Lions Club. Other meetings will be scheduled for January.

Briefings to Elected Officials/Governing Boards/Advisory Committees

To date, presentations have been scheduled with the following groups between now and February: Regional Transportation Commission, Metro, Portland Planning Commission, C-TRAN Board, Cowlitz County, City Center Redevelopment Authority, and Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance.

Listening sessions

Several “listening sessions” will be scheduled for Clark County and Portland to provide informal discussion opportunities for the public on the recommendation for the DEIS alternatives. The dates and locations will be announced soon.

African American Community Unity Breakfast

CRC is sponsoring a breakfast Jan. 18 at 7:30 a.m. and will be giving the keynote presentation.

Communication Materials

Publicity materials are being produced to inform the community about the public comment opportunities. They include: newsletter (scheduled for distribution in early January), podcast (scheduled for uploading in early December), website updates, post card to announce open houses (to be sent in late December/early January), flyers in Vancouver neighborhood newsletters, and the monthly project email.

Submitting Public Comments

CRC encourages written comments to be submitted to the project office in these ways:

Email: feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org

Mail: 700 Washington St., Suite 300,
Vancouver, WA 98660

Fax: 360.737.0294