



OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
WASHINGTON

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
OREGON

February 16, 2010

The Honorable Tim Leavitt, Mayor
City of Vancouver
P.O. Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668

The Honorable Sam Adams, Mayor
City of Portland
1221 Southwest 4th Avenue, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

The Honorable Steve Stuart, Chair
Board of Clark County Commissioners
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666

The Honorable David Bragdon, President
Metro Council
600 Northeast Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mayors Leavitt and Adams, Commissioner Stuart, and President Bragdon:

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2010 and your continued commitment to the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project. We value your advisory role in shaping a project that is essential to maintaining our economic vitality and enhancing the livability of the communities in our two states. Interstate 5 is a major economic corridor for both states and the entire West Coast. We feel strongly this project must move forward without delay.

Working with your communities, Oregon and Washington have invested years and millions of dollars studying and planning this project. It will alleviate congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the safety and freight mobility of important commerce traveling through our states. These investments have resulted in a one-of-a-kind project ready to receive significant national support. The Oregon and Washington federal delegations are positioned in key leadership roles to leverage substantial federal resources for this project as Congress begins to debate key appropriations and reauthorization bills.

We believe the CRC is an important investment that will strengthen the economy of the entire Pacific Northwest because of its critical importance as the major north-south transportation link of the western United States. This project will improve the flow of commerce and goods, and create green transportation alternatives for commuters. In addition, it will create more than 20,000 critically-needed jobs in the region. This project cannot afford delays. We are directing our Departments of Transportation to move forward, as scheduled, to deliver a published FEIS in early fall to allow a Record of Decision on the refined Locally Preferred Alternative as planned.

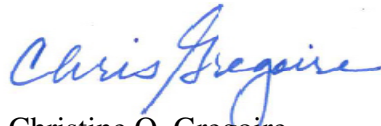
The Honorable Tim Leavitt
The Honorable Sam Adams
The Honorable Steve Stuart
The Honorable David Bragdon
February 16, 2010
Page 2

All of the CRC project partners share your goals of assuring the public trust and confidence in this project. As you have indicated, the project is complex and has a broad variety of partners and stakeholders. We have heard concerns from other partners and stakeholders regarding implementation and the time and costs associated with your proposals to restructure project delivery.

In order to accomplish the goal of building public trust and confidence, we will convene an expert review panel, similar to that used in Washington State to review the Alaskan Way Viaduct and State Route 520 projects in 2006. The panel will be asked to assess the financial and implementation plans for the CRC. It will also review and evaluate key objectives and associated performance measures in order to guide decisions on the project and its operation after construction. Panelists will include national experts with experience in design and management, cost estimation, mitigation planning, and management of large urban transportation projects. We believe this process will respond to the goals stated in your letter and will do so in a way that does not delay the project schedule. Our Departments of Transportation have also assured us that they will continue to work collaboratively with project partners to address the technical issues listed in your letter.

The citizens of this region have watched our two states discuss and plan for a new bridge for over 20 years and they expect us to proceed. We look forward to working with you and are available to meet and discuss this project with you at any time.

Sincerely,



Christine O. Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor, State of Oregon

cc: Members of the Project Sponsors Council