

# Project Summary

Columbia River Crossing (CRC) is a bridge, transit and highway improvement project for I-5 between Vancouver and Portland.



## The project will improve conditions on I-5 by:

- Preventing southbound congestion from starting before 6 a.m. and lasting until noon each weekday
- Preventing northbound congestion from starting at 1 p.m. and lasting until 9 p.m. each weekday
- Providing reliable high capacity transit service
- Improving safety on the I-5 bridge and highway
- Moving goods more efficiently for a healthy economy
- Providing safe and direct access across the Columbia River for pedestrians and bicyclists

## The Problems

### Freight Mobility

Congestion delays freight trucks, increasing delivery time and costs.

### Public Transit

Buses traveling on I-5 between Vancouver and Portland get stuck in traffic, making transit schedules less reliable.

### Congestion

I-5 between Vancouver and Portland currently suffers six hours of traffic congestion each weekday. Without improvements, congestion will increase to more than 7 hours southbound and 8 hours northbound each weekday by 2030.

### Safety

This section of I-5 has accident rates two to three times higher than similar highways in Oregon and Washington:

- Merging and weaving problems lead to side-swipe crashes
- Short on and off ramps at interchanges contribute to a high accident rate
- Poor sight distance approaching the bridge leads to rear-end crashes
- During bridge lifts, crash rates increase three to four times

### Pedestrian/ Bicycle Access

The paths on the I-5 bridge are dangerously narrow, and local street connections are confusing and circuitous.

### Earthquake Safety

A significant earthquake could damage the I-5 bridge.

## Five Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Alternatives

The CRC project is analyzing five alternatives as part of the Draft EIS process. The goal of the Draft EIS is to identify the best performing solution with the fewest community impacts.

Early Draft EIS results will be available for public discussion in late 2007. The Draft EIS will be published in February 2008, followed by a 60-day public comment period.

The five alternatives are:

- Replacement bridge with bus rapid transit
- Replacement bridge with light rail
- Supplemental bridge with bus rapid transit
- Supplemental bridge with light rail
- No build (for comparison purposes)

## Issues Included in the Draft EIS

The following topics are some of the major issues being analyzed in the Draft EIS:

- Public transit (routes, stations, and park and ride locations)
- Improvements for freight connections and traffic management tools (such as ramp meters, incident response and ridesharing)
- Pedestrian and bicycle improvements
- Air quality and noise levels
- Built and natural environmental effects
- Cultural and historical resources
- Tolling
- Bridge type, appearance and alignment

## How can I get involved?

- Visit the website at [www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org](http://www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org) to sign up for updates
- Attend an advisory group meeting
- Invite CRC staff to your group to discuss the project



## How can I comment on the project?

Email: [feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org](mailto:feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org)

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

Phone: 360-737-2726 or 503-256-2726

Fax: 360-737-0294

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