



March 10, 2010

Dear Governors Gregoire and Kulongoski,

We are writing on behalf of our organizations, which together represent thousands of Oregonians and Washingtonians, to express our concern about the Columbia River Crossing project. In particular, we are concerned about your response to a recent request made by Portland Mayor Sam Adams, Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt, Metro Council President David Bragdon, and Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart that seeks to address serious flaws in the current plan.

We are confident that, as the governors of Oregon and Washington, you support the region's shared values of economic vitality, reliable and equitable transportation, safe and healthy neighborhoods, good air quality, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and good public process. Yet we agree with our local officials that the current proposal for the I-5 corridor falls short on these measures.

We are concerned that the project will lead to increased traffic and congestion, exacerbate the current bottlenecks in the Rose Quarter, on I-205, and on local streets in Portland, induce poorly planned sprawl development, and increase greenhouse gas emissions, making it much more difficult to reach the greenhouse gas goals and requirements you each supported. We also believe the project should increase transparency and provide affected communities with better opportunities to meaningfully participate in the process.

The local officials made several specific requests to address serious flaws in the current plan. The expert review panel you proposed in response is inadequate because it does not allow for consideration of the issues they raised. First, the scope of the review fails to address key questions, particularly related to maximizing performance in the corridor, bringing down project cost, protecting funding for other transportation needs, and evaluating key assumptions that resulted in excessive community impacts, including on Hayden Island. Second, the rigid, fast-track timeline does not allow the opportunity to address any problems the panel may find.

The local officials ask important questions about the project and we ask that you reconsider your response. It is worth some extra time in planning to ensure that this multi-billion dollar, region reshaping, project is done right.

Sincerely,

Jill Fuglister, Co-Director  
Coalition for a Livable Future

Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director  
Columbia Riverkeeper

Rob Johnson, Executive Director  
Transportation Choices Coalition

Mary Lou Hennrich, Executive Director  
Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public  
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Mary Kyle McCurdy, Co-Interim Director  
1000 Friends of Oregon

Brock Howell, Advocate  
Environment Oregon

Jim Long, President  
AORTA (Association of Oregon Rail and Transit  
Advocates)

April Putney, Co-Director  
Futurewise

Gerik Kransky, Advocacy Campaign Manager  
Bicycle Transportation Alliance

Jon Ostar, Co-Director  
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

Chuck Ayers, Executive Director  
Cascade Bicycle Club

Mel Rader, Co-Director  
Upstream Public Health

Gregg Small, Executive Director  
Climate Solutions

Blair Anundson, Consumer and Democracy Advocate  
WashPIRG

Cc: Portland Mayor Sam Adams  
Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt  
Metro Council President David Bragdon  
Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart  
Richard Brandman, Columbia River Crossing Project  
Don Wagner, Columbia River Crossing Project  
Paula Hammond, Washington Secretary of Transportation  
Matt Garrett, Director, Oregon Department of Transportation