

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the Columbia River Crossing

Summary of Meetings – September 2011 – May 2012

Thursday, September 22, 2011 – Hearing Room D, Oregon State Capitol (11AM – 1PM)

Organizational Meeting – Adoption of Committee Rules

- statements by committee members of committee expectations

Status Report on Columbia River Crossing Project

- introduction of CRC management team by ODOT Director Matt Garrett
- introductory remarks by CRC Director Nancy Boyd
- overview of project timeline by CRC Deputy Director Kris Strickler

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 – Metro Regional Headquarters, Portland (9AM – 4PM)

Welcome by Metro Chair Tom Hughes

Status Report on Columbia River Crossing

- introduction of panelists by ODOT Director Matt Garrett
- statement regarding CRC by OTC Chair Pat Egan
- technical analysis of statement of need by CRC Deputy Director Kris Strickler
- discussion of decision-making process by CRC Task Force chair Henry Hewitt
- commentary on importance of CRC to freight mobility by Kathryn Williams, Port of Portland, Ann-Marie Lundberg, Port of Morrow; Martin Callery, International Port of Coos Bay; Tim McCabe, Business Oregon;
- overview of technical specifications of CRC bridge span, interchanges, transit features and interchanges by Kris Strickler
- review of traffic and safety statistics by CRC Traffic Lead Ryan LeProwse
- overview of bridge component screening and consideration of alternatives by Heather Wills, CRC Environment Manager
- discussion of refinement process to determine Locally Preferred Alternative by Kris Strickler; Steve Whitter, CRC Transit Manager; Ryan LaProuse
- announcement of receipt of Record of Decision

Thursday, January 19, 2012 – Hearing Room C, Oregon State Capitol (11:30AM – 1:30 PM)

Status Report on Columbia River Crossing

- review of December meeting by ODOT Director Matt Garrett
- discussion of cost estimation process by CRC Deputy Director Kris Strickler
- review of financial plan development process by Steve Siegel
- overview of federal funding application process by Travis Brouwer, ODOT
- discussion of toll revenue projections by Nancy Boyd, CRC Director
- discussion of potential state financing packages by Matt Garrett
- review of constructability and phasing by Kris Strickler and Patricia McCaig, CRC Advisor to Governor Kitzhaber
- discussion of potential governance models by Kris Strickler

Friday, March 16, 2012 – Metro Regional Headquarters, Portland (9AM – 1PM)

The Columbia River Crossing – Alternative Perspectives (*public testimony*)

- State Rep. Lew Frederick – impact on local neighborhoods
- Clark County Commissioner Tom Meilke – opposition to current design
- George Crandall, Crandall Arambula – expresses support for third bridge alternative (three bridge solution)
- Will Macht, PSU Professor – opposes imposition of toll and asserts that CRC does not solve the region’s congestion problems
- Joe Cortright, Impresa Consulting, questioned the traffic and toll forecasts used in modeling the project’s statement of need and financing plan, as is the expected level of federal funding; he highlighted the potential risk to the state should results fall short of predictions
- Chris Girard, CEO of Plaid Pantry, discussed the potential risk of beginning a mega-project that lacks a viable phasing plan and may lack necessary funding
- Bob Stacy, Metro council candidate, recommended simplifying the project in order to reduce cost and risk
- Thomas Buchele, Law Professor at Lewis and Clark, criticized the lack of sufficient accuracy on the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements
- David Sweet, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, said that the project would make local congestion and air pollution worse at too high a cost
- Floyd Smith, AORTA, expressed preference for the third bridge alternative
- Herman Kachold, Hayden Island Livability Project, expressed concern about the large impact that the project would have on Hayden Island
- John Charles (not present) provided written testimony expressing preference for bus rapid transit as opposed to light rail in the project
- Ron Buel asserted that the project should make no additional expenditures or property acquisitions and instead perform a comprehensive study of alternative projects in time for consideration by the Legislative Assembly in 2013
- Gerald Fox asserted that the CRC will not reduce congestion but will only relocate it to other areas and voiced agreement with the third bridge concept
- Brad Perkins, Perkins Realty, expressed preference for the third bridge concept
- Sharon Nassett, Third Bridge Now Coalition, provided a packet of information outlining the features of the third bridge concept
- Jeff Geisler, Hayden Island Livability Network, discussed negative impacts of the CRC to Hayden Island
- Larry Epstein, Diversified Marine, Inc., said the CRC would put his company out of business by forcing it to relocate operations
- Walter Valenta, CRC Community Oversight & Review, testified to the need to reduce the project’s impacts on affected neighborhoods

Monday, March 21, 2012

Project Update and Next Steps

- response by Heather Wills, CRC Environment Manager, to assertion that other bridge concepts were not adequately considered
- review of phasing and funding options by ODOT Director Matt Garrett, CRC Deputy Director Kris Strickler and ODOT Federal Affairs Advisor Travis Brouwer