



BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Betty Sue Morris • Marc Boldt • Steve Stuart

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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

July 12, 2006

Columbia River Crossing
Project Sponsors Council
Project Task Force
WSDOT and ODOT Project Directors
700 Washington St. Suite 300
Vancouver, WA 98860

With this letter we wish to enter into all relevant forums and records the unanimous policy statement of the Board of Clark County Commissioners regarding the Columbia River Crossing project, as follows:

The people who live and do business in Clark County are likely to pay a substantial share of any tolls, taxes, or fees associated with future crossings. By the same token, local residents and businesses will bear additional costs for public and private transportation associated with the crossing. Our citizens already are paying considerable state and federal taxes for public facilities and services in both Washington and Oregon.


Congestion surrounding the Interstate Bridge has become intolerable. Our top priority is immediate relief for freight and other through traffic that supports the region's economic vitality. *The challenge of building consensus and securing financing for public transit must not stand in the way of this goal.*

Specifically, we favor:

- A new supplemental crossing west of the existing Interstate Bridge. This would enhance public safety and greatly reduce the risk of serious delays and disruptions in transporting people and freight. The supplemental crossing should not preclude future uses for existing spans.
- Maximum flexibility for high-capacity transit, including options to change or combine types of transit over time.
- Public involvement and consensus building, including elections if necessary, to secure multi-jurisdictional funding for related projects. In particular, this should focus on capital investment and operating expenses to connect public transit facilities and services in Washington and Oregon.

Given the county's enormous stake in this project, we are seeking maximum consideration for the many Southwest Washington interests that are represented by Clark County, apart from those represented by the City of Vancouver. We look forward to your response.


Sincerely,



Marc Boldt, Chair



Steve Stuart, Commissioner



Betty Sue Morris, Commissioner

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