



Washington State Legislature

Olympia

May 3, 2013

Bill Ganley
Chairman, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
P.O. Box 1366
Vancouver, Washington 98666

Dear Mr. Ganley,

The purpose of this letter is to ask that the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) reconsider its support for the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project in its current form. We believe that, in the light of new evidence and glaring problems with the project, the RTC should be in opposition to the CRC.

A document recently discovered by Forensic Accountant Tiffany Couch indicates that CRC staff has made fundamental changes to the project without the approval or knowledge of the project sponsors. CRC staff has removed four interstate interchanges and the complete SR-500 interchange from the plan, reducing the Locally Preferred Alternative to nothing more than a light rail project. The six CRC project sponsors have not delegated their authority to the agency to make such changes. Clearly, the sponsoring agencies have lost control of the CRC. We ask that you remove your support until reform is implemented.

The majority of state and local leaders are deeply concerned about the CRC project as proposed, not to mention the questionable history of the agency. The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus will not support a budget that includes construction funding for the project until the bridge height is fixed and light rail is removed. Of the 15 legislators from Southwest Washington, only three support the CRC project. The Clark County Commissioners have issued a statement in opposition to the project. Clark County overwhelmingly opposed light rail in the last election cycle. The message is clear: the CRC project as currently designed with light rail is not a workable solution for Washington.

We need a new crossing, but we do not need hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of pork, a bridge height that will kill commerce up-river, a bridge that will not significantly improve commute time, the loss of thousands of jobs, the destruction of our historic downtown, and tolling for thirty years. We can do better!

Please join the majority of leaders in Southwest Washington by removing your support for the CRC in its current form. We ask that you distribute this letter to all the members of the board before the next meeting.

Sincerely,



Senator Don Benton
17th district



Senator John Braun
20th district



Representative Paul Harris
17th district



Representative Ed Orcutt
20th district



Representative Brandon Vick
18th district