

Submitted by:

Ed Barnes

## DRAFT AMENDMENT

### I-5 BRIDGE PROJECT SHOULD CARRY "PROJECT OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE" DESIGNATION

The pending I-5 bridge project qualifies for, and should be designated by the State of Washington as a project of statewide significance. In 1997, the state legislature adopted legislation which provides that certain projects and investments merit special designation and treatment by government bodies as government projects and investments of Statewide Significance.

WHEREAS, the above mentioned legislation designates that border-crossing projects involving both private and public investments carried out in conjunction with adjacent states or provinces or a private development with private capital investment qualifies for this special designation; and,

WHEREAS, such designation is designed to "expedite the development of projects of statewide significance" and local governments having comprehensive plans may "develop a process to expedite the review, approval, permitting, and completion of projects of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 bridge project clearly falls under that designation; and

WHEREAS, this legislation refers directly to the types of investment like SEH America and Wafer Tech that were designated as projects of Statewide Significance; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the efforts by Oregon transportation leaders to address the I-5 corridor deficiencies through the I- 5/I-84 interchange (aka the Rose Quarter) in Portland; and

WHEREAS, border Crossing projects that involve both private and public investments with adjacent states such as the State of Oregon; and local industries and the employees of those industries rely directly on the bridge that services the I-5 corridor; and

WHEREAS, President Dwight D. Eisenhower designated the I-5 bridge as part of a national defense interstate highway system serving the west coast from Canada to Mexico, including Oregon and Washington and the metropolitan area of Portland and Vancouver; (see attachment) and

WHEREAS, President Bush issued an order to expedite the Columbia River Crossing. This action placed this project in an elite status, extended to only 20 other projects in the USA over the last five years before 2008; (see Attachment) and

WHEREAS, President Obama announced on August 18, 2012 that the Columbia River Crossing project as one of the transportation projects to be expedited through his *We Can't Wait* initiative. This designation recognizes the national significance of the project; (see attachment) and

WHEREAS, existing I-5 bridge congestion is negatively impacting the entire west coast, and the economies of SW Washington and the Portland Metropolitan Area; and the economy of the West Coast of the United States; and

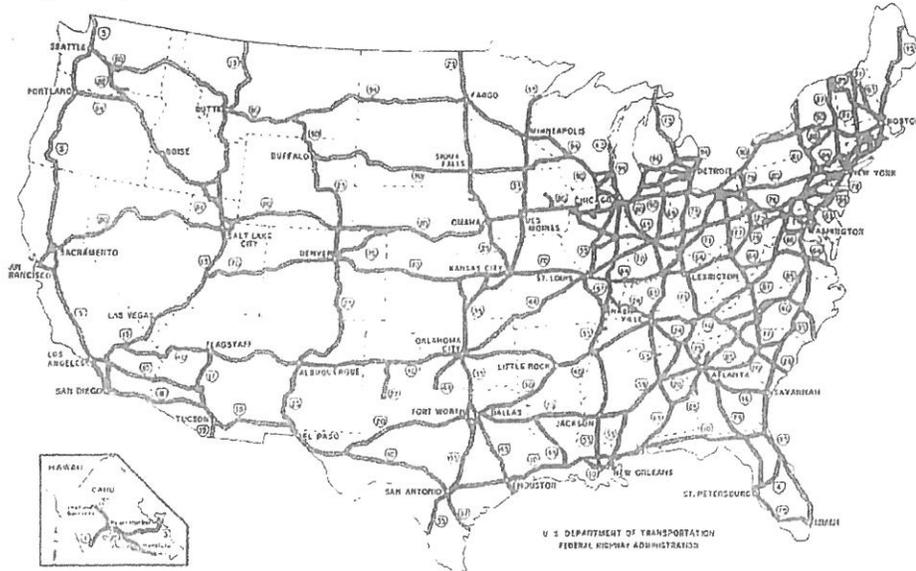
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) recommends that the State of Washington designate the I-5 Bridge Replacement as a project of Statewide Significance and that we ask the State of Oregon and Washington to request Congress to assist in funding this important I-5 Interstate Defense Highway because of its importance to the economy of the United States.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Regional Transportation Council requests that legislature remove the amendment that prohibited the State Department of Transportation from working on the I-5 replacement bridge.

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## Highway History

### The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways



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### News

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Tuesday, August 5, 2008  
Contact: Doug Hecox  
(202) 366-0660  
DOT 109-08

**President Bush Issues Order to Expedite Columbia River Crossing**  
*Long-Awaited Project Receives 'High Priority' Status to Speed I-5 Congestion Relief*

WASHINGTON — The Columbia River Crossing, also known as the Interstate 5 Bridge between Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., received national priority status from the White House today, said U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters. The elite status, extended to only 20 other projects over the last five years, will help reduce the project's timetable by months if not years.

"The Columbia River Crossing will ease the congestion impacting one of the most important commercial routes in the country," said Secretary Peters. "The President's order is an important step toward making this project a reality so we can get goods to market, and travelers to their destinations efficiently and safely."

The priority designation under Executive Order 13274 was requested jointly by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation. It will help speed decision-making by officials while maintaining all federal and state environmental review requirements.

"With the environmental streamlining that this Executive Order empowers, we can cut red tape without cutting corners," said Secretary Peters.

The Columbia River Crossing project, which has already received \$15 million in federal funding, will reduce gridlock and improve safety problems on a five-mile stretch of I-5 through a combination of bridge, transit and highway improvements. About one crash occurs daily — a rate that is twice as high as similar highways in Oregon and Washington.

11/10/2016

President Bush Issues Order to Expedite Columbia River Crossing, 9/5/08 | Press Releases | Federal Highway Administration

The project area stretches from State Route 500 in Vancouver, Wash., to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland, Ore., including the I-5 Bridge across the Columbia River.

The FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration share leadership among federal agencies for this project, though others cooperating include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, National Park Service, U.S. General Services Administration and numerous state, Tribal and local agencies.

For the nine projects of national significance currently listed under E.O. 13274, visit <http://www.dot.gov/execorder/13274/projects/pplist/index.htm>

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Governor Kitzhaber and Governor Gregoire Press Release

**OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS**JOHN A. KITZHABER, M.D.  
OREGONCHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
WASHINGTON**NEWS RELEASE****AUGUST 18, 2012**

Media Contact:

Cory Curtis, Governor Gregoire's office, 360-902-4136

Tim Raphael, Governor Kitzhaber's office, 503-689-6117

## Columbia River Crossing Project Identified in President Obama's *We Can't Wait* Initiative

(Salem, OR) – President Obama today announced the Columbia River Crossing project as one of the transportation projects to be expedited through his *We Can't Wait* initiative. This designation recognizes the national significance of the project, and will help save time as the federal government expedites permits for the project.

"President Obama's designation underscores the importance of the Columbia River Crossing project to the thousands of people who use on it every day to keep our region's economy growing," said Governor Kitzhaber. "It highlights that the project is about more than connecting Vancouver and Portland, but about connecting small and large manufacturers and businesses – from Hillsboro to Los Angeles, Seattle to Vancouver, Canada – that depend on a reliable interstate system to move their goods. This federal support will help coordinate CRC's federal permits and demonstrates confidence that this project will get done. Now it is time for Oregon and Washington to show our commitment so we can get this going."

The Interstate 5 bridge structures between Oregon and Washington were built in 1917 and 1958 and do not meet current safety or geometric standards. Their wooden pilings are set in liquefiable soil and are at risk in the event of an earthquake. The bridge is a critical link for freight between Canada and Mexico and one of the worst freight bottlenecks in the United States. Today, I-5 carries more than \$40 billion in freight each year and is expected to carry \$71 billion in 2030.

"Our businesses and citizens are working hard to recover from the economic recession, and they can't afford losing the I-5 connection across the Columbia River from an earthquake, or for freight and commuters to be stuck in traffic during bridge lifts and accidents," said Governor Chris Gregoire. "Already, the crossing experiences four to six hours of congestion daily, and with no action that congestion is expected to stretch to 15 hours by 2030. President Obama's announcement today recognizes the importance the crossing has to the region and will help us expedite the needed federal permits. This project will provide thousands of construction jobs, as well as long-term growth in one of the most trade-dependent areas of the United States. We are committed to taking the necessary steps to begin bridge construction in 2014."

CRC began work to apply for federal, state and local permits after receiving a record of decision approving the environmental analysis and locally preferred alternative from the

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Management and Budget is charged with overseeing a government-wide effort to make the permitting and review process for infrastructure projects more efficient and effective, saving time while driving better outcomes for local communities. Initially, 43 projects will be expedited by the Executive Order, the first seven being major port projects announced last week. Additional expedited infrastructure projects will be announced in the coming weeks.

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**About the project**

CRC is a long-term, comprehensive project to reduce congestion, enhance mobility and improve safety on Interstate 5 between SR 500 in Vancouver, Wash., and Columbia Boulevard in Portland. The project will replace the I-5 bridge, extend light rail to Vancouver, improve closely-spaced interchanges and enhance the pedestrian and bicycle path between the two cities. The project will be funded by federal and state sources, as well as future tolls.

More information is available at [www.columbiarivercrossing.org](http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org).

