
From: Ronald Swaren <rswaren2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:31 PM
To: RTC meetings
Subject: I-5 Bridge Replacement would be comparable to Marquam Bridge

To the Council members,

Because of the required waterway clearance any new bridge replacing the I-5 bridges would be much higher in the air. The US Coast Guard specification is 135 feet. The closest example I have found is the Marquam Bridge on I-5 in Portland which has an average clearance of 130 feet. This means that on-off ramps on the Washington side would be very similar in configuration to the Marquam Bridge's ramps. In other words. very lengthy ramps supported with numerous cast concrete columns.

This, then, would comprise the view from downtown Vancouver. Something rather similar to the Marquam Bridge and its ramps. Right now, the Interstate highways is at surface level; but a replacement bridge would have to be very high to provide clearance for ships. You would be trading a relatively unobstructed view for a very obstructed one. Additionally, these high and lengthy ramps could pose an obstruction to aircraft landing at Pearson Air Park.

I hope this will change minds away from calling for a replacement of the existing I-5 bridges. Instead look at possibilities for added crossings of the Columbia.

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