



**METRO**

**Agenda**

MEETING: METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
DATE: December 4, 2007  
DAY: Tuesday  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
PLACE: Metro Council Chamber

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- 2:00 PM 1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 6, 2007/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**
- 2:15 PM 2. COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RESULTS BRIEFING** Brandman
- 2:15 PM CRC staff presentation on alternatives analysis  
Council opportunity to receive data, get clarification  
Council understands its decision-making role in the Columbia River Crossing**
- 2:45 PM Council discussion  
- Identify Council issues, opportunities and concerns  
- Questions for Council: Does any alternative fit adopted Council policy, ie, I-5 task force recommendations?  
Does Council wish to state a preference?**
- 3:15 PM 3. BREAK**
- 3:20 PM 4. COUNCIL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** Bragdon
- 4:20 PM 5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION**
- ADJOURN**

# METRO COUNCIL

## Work Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 12-4-07 Time: 2:00 pm Length: 60 mins.

Presentation Title: Columbia River Crossing Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement Results Briefing

Department: Planning

Presenters: Richard Brandman, Jeff Heilman (CRC), Danielle Cogan (CRC), Ron Anderson (CRC)

### ISSUE & BACKGROUND

#### Context

The Columbia River Crossing Project is a bi-state project sponsored jointly by WSDOT and ODOT that is evaluating highway and transit alternatives to replace or supplement the existing I-5 bridges across the Columbia River. The project is currently in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) phase of project development. The Council has been briefed at regular intervals on the project's findings leading up to the start of the DEIS earlier this year, including the definition of alternatives to be included in the DEIS.

The next major decision for the project will be the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) beginning early in 2008. Subsequent to recommendations from the project's Task Force and local jurisdiction partners, the Council will be asked to adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the project in June 2008. The Council would then consider an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan to include the LPA in the federal financially constrained network.

Following the LPA decision, the project would seek Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration approvals to enter Preliminary Engineering and prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

#### Background

At the worksession, CRC staff will summarize DEIS results to date, including the purpose and need for the project, the environmental impacts of selecting a build alternative and the ridership and cost (capital and operating) associated with build and no-build options.

The Columbia River Crossing Task force, composed of citizens, business leaders and elected officials from both Oregon and Washington will review the DEIS findings over the next several months. The Task Force, including Councilor Burkholder received the first of several briefings on the initial results of the DEIS on November 27<sup>th</sup>. In early 2008, the Task Force will develop their locally preferred alternative (LPA) recommendation. Options to consider for the LPA include bridge choice (replacement, supplemental or no-build), transit mode (bus rapid transit, light rail or no-build), and the transit alignment associated with a transit build alternative.

### **OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

The Council has already commented on the range of alternatives to be included in the DEIS. The CRC project and the Task Force responded to the Council's requests by adding supplemental bridge alternatives including extensive transit service improvements.

The worksession will offer the opportunity for the Council to comment on the information being presented on the performance of the alternatives. The next formal point for Council action will be the Locally Preferred Alternative decision in June 2008, however Councilor Burkholder can raise Council concerns at any CRC Task Force meeting.

### **IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

No Council action is required at this time.

### **QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION**

How would the Council prefer to be involved between now and the selection of the LPA?

What types of information would be most useful to the Council?

**LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR COUNCIL ACTION** \_\_Yes  
\_x\_ Not at this time.

**DRAFT IS ATTACHED** \_\_Yes \_x\_ No