



Summary of Advisory and Working Group Activities June 2007

Community and Environmental Justice Group

The CEJG advises the CRC project in these areas:

- Conducting individual or group review of the CRC project materials.
- Identifying issues and concerns in the process, and present recommendations at key milestones to the project team.
- Assisting the project team in effectively engaging the public in the project by:
 - Reviewing and commenting on outreach plan.
 - Identifying service providers and community based organizations in the project area.
 - Informing the project team of known changes in demographics within the area of effects since the 2000 Census.
 - Assisting in identifying community reactions, issues of concern.
- Providing input to the project team into relevant areas of interest (or potential impact) such as air quality, noise, highway interchange alignments and design features to help inform the project's efforts to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate potential impacts of the project to their community.

The group recently elected two co-chairs, one from Oregon and one from Washington. Michelle Tworoger of Hayden Island is the Oregon co-chair and Dave Frei of the Arnada neighborhood of Vancouver, is the co-chair for Washington.

The thirteen members of the CEJG come from neighborhoods in the project area and include environmental justice communities (low-income, African American, Latino), one liaison from the CRC Task Force, and five at-large members. They represent the diverse interests and perspectives of Vancouver, Portland and Hayden Island neighborhoods potentially affected by the project.

The group has met monthly since August 2006. In that time, they have advised the project on the development of the project Web site, expanded neighborhood resource maps to identify community resources for the DEIS process, influenced the creation of outreach materials for diverse audiences in the project area and provided input at the key milestone of identifying alternatives to be analyzed during the DEIS process.

Freight Working Group (FWG)

- The purpose of the FWG is to provide advice to the CRC project on freight-related issues.
- The group has 10 members representing a variety of freight-related interests from private industry.
- Eight meetings have been held so far and the next meeting is scheduled for July 11. The FWG meets every one to two months and agency representatives often attend.
- This group has provided significant input to the project, including review of applicable freight-related components to highway design, input on the preparation of a truck freight report that documents truck travel conditions along I-5, background on freight issues and concerns, and advice on highway design of critical locations including the Marine Drive, SR 14, and Mill Plain Boulevard interchanges.
- At upcoming meetings, the FWG will continue to focus on proposed design issues related to truck movement.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC)

- The purpose of the PBAC is to provide advice to the CRC project on pedestrian and bicycle associated matters.
- There are approximately 20 members including agency representatives and advocacy interests.
- Four meetings of the group have been held since March 2007. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 11. The PBAC generally meets monthly, and holds additional meetings when necessary.
- Accomplishments include the development of a pedestrian and bicycle fact sheet, a map showing all existing and planned pedestrian and bicycle routes in and beyond the I-5 Bridge Influence Area, samples of pathways used on bridges throughout the world, parameters of good multi-modal pathway design, and multi-agency standards for pathways, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.
- PBAC members have participated in two working meetings to review potential pathway alignments across the Columbia River and Portland Harbor and to provide input on potential connections to the pathways for the Replacement Bridge options.
- In future meetings the group will provide input on potential connections for the Supplemental Bridge options, and advise the project on general pedestrian and bicycle related issues, including reviews of interchange options and transit stations.

Urban Design Advisory Group (UDAG)

- The Urban Design Advisory Group (UDAG) provides advice to the CRC project on the appearance of the bridge, transit and highway designs, incorporation of context sensitive design and sustainability, and the development of guidelines for visual impact and urban design.
- The group is co-chaired by Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard and Portland Commissioner Sam Adams. Last November, they jointly proposed that Portland and Vancouver have a lead role in exploring options and preparing recommendations regarding bridge architecture and urban design.
- The fourteen members – five each selected by each city and four selected by the CRC staff – are citizen volunteers representing architecture, arts, aesthetic design, cultural and historic resources, community connections, and sustainability.
- The UDAG has met monthly since March to consider key design aspects of the alternatives being analyzed by the project. The first two meetings concentrated on opportunities, constraints, and potential bridge types. More recently, the group has discussed the development of design guidelines to assist the CRC project team to refine bridge, transit and highway designs.
- In future meetings, the UDAG will focus on evolving design elements as the project alternatives are narrowed to select a locally preferred alternative.