

## Overview of Public Comment and Involvement

November 22, 2006 – February 25, 2007

### Open House Promotion

To promote participation at this key decision point, display ads were placed in nine print publications:

- *The Oregonian, Columbian*
- *El Hispanic News*
- *The Asian Reporter*
- *The Skanner*
- *The Portland Observer*
- *The Senior Messenger*
- *St John's Sentinel*
- *The Reflector*

Promotional efforts included

- 41,000 postcards mailed to zip codes in the project area
- 10,000 *BridgeNews* newsletters mailed in Clark County and Portland
- 4,000 *BridgeNews* newsletters were distributed at meetings and at community locations
- 6,900 email announcements.
- 13,000 notices were inserted into local neighborhood association newsletters
- 1,300 flyers were distributed on Hayden Island and to East Columbia neighbors.

### Community Meetings

Project staff made presentations and gathered feedback at 52 neighborhood, government, business, and community meetings in Clark County and Portland from November 30, 2006 to February 22, 2007. A total of 1,546 people were engaged through these events. Roughly half (24) of the events took place in the Bridge Influence Area. Thirty events were held in Washington, 19 in Oregon, and one in both states. *(Please see list attached).*

### Open House Events

The CRC project held four open houses in Clark County and North Portland. The majority of people providing feedback at these events indicated support for the staff recommendations. More than 360 people participated and just over one-half of all attendees provided comments on the bridge and transit proposal.

### Forms of Public Comment

#### Total comments received: 517

At each of the four open houses, comments were gathered using the following methods:

- 155 Comment forms filled out by hand (green forms)
- 28 Comment forms filled out electronically on computer stations
- 17 Court reporter transcripts
- 2 Flip chart notes of verbal comments shared with staff

The project team also received public input through:

- 44 Comment forms distributed at community events and meetings
- 192 E-mails, web based comment forms, letters and phone calls to the CRC project office
- 79 A tear-off, self-mailed comment form included in the Winter 2006 project newsletter

## Themes in Public Comment

### Project Need

- Majority of people comment on need for the project.
- Many agree there is a problem and that the three key elements --river crossing, transit, and highway improvements – are part of the solution.
- There remain some individuals who question the project need asking “if you add capacity, are you just creating more problems?”
- Comments on congestion as a symptom of the problem because many people live on one side of the river (Washington) and work on the other (Oregon).

### Staff Recommendation

- Majority of comments support the Staff Recommendation.

### Transit

- Given the options in the Staff Recommendation of light rail, bus, and a no build option, most commentors have transit choices that they are interested in.
- Majority of comments support some form of improved transit.
- There is support for pursuing both Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) in the DEIS.
- There continues to be some confusion about what defines BRT. Few people use “Bus Rapid Transit” to describe that alternative.
- There are more comments of support for LRT than opposition. People do specifically refer to LRT more frequently than BRT, but whether they support or oppose LRT isn’t determined by which side of the Columbia River they live on.
- Other forms of transit that have been considered and dismissed, such as passenger rail, and commuter rail are still of interest to some.

### River Crossing

- No clear consensus on arterial connections from Hayden Island to the south and Hayden Island to the north. There are a number of different suggestions that refer to River Crossings at various locations along the I-5 to I-205 corridor.
- Individuals remain interested in an arterial crossing, but most respondents have been more focused on other elements of the project: LRT vs. bus, major bridge improvements vs. not, or how bridge construction would take place.
- There are a handful of very active people interested in an arterial crossing. But it’s not a frequently mentioned topic. More of the comments deal with existing bridges – whether to get rid of them, keep and improve them, build shops and restaurants on them, or other suggestions.
- Several comments expressed support for components that have already been dismissed, notably a third corridor or a tunnel.

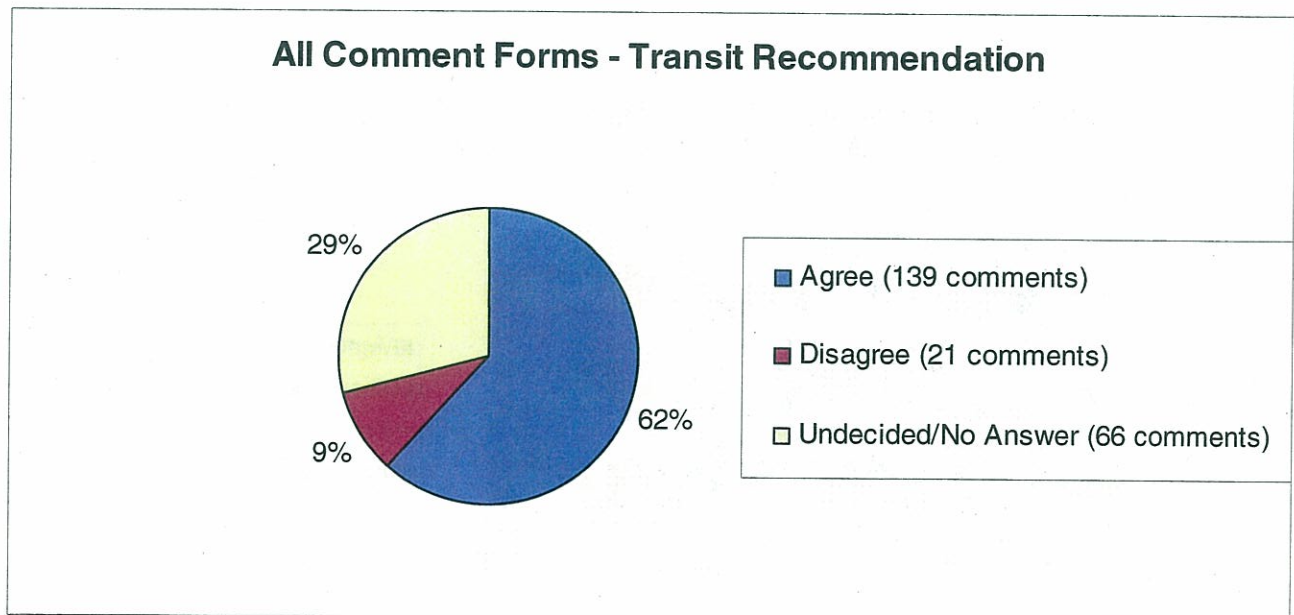
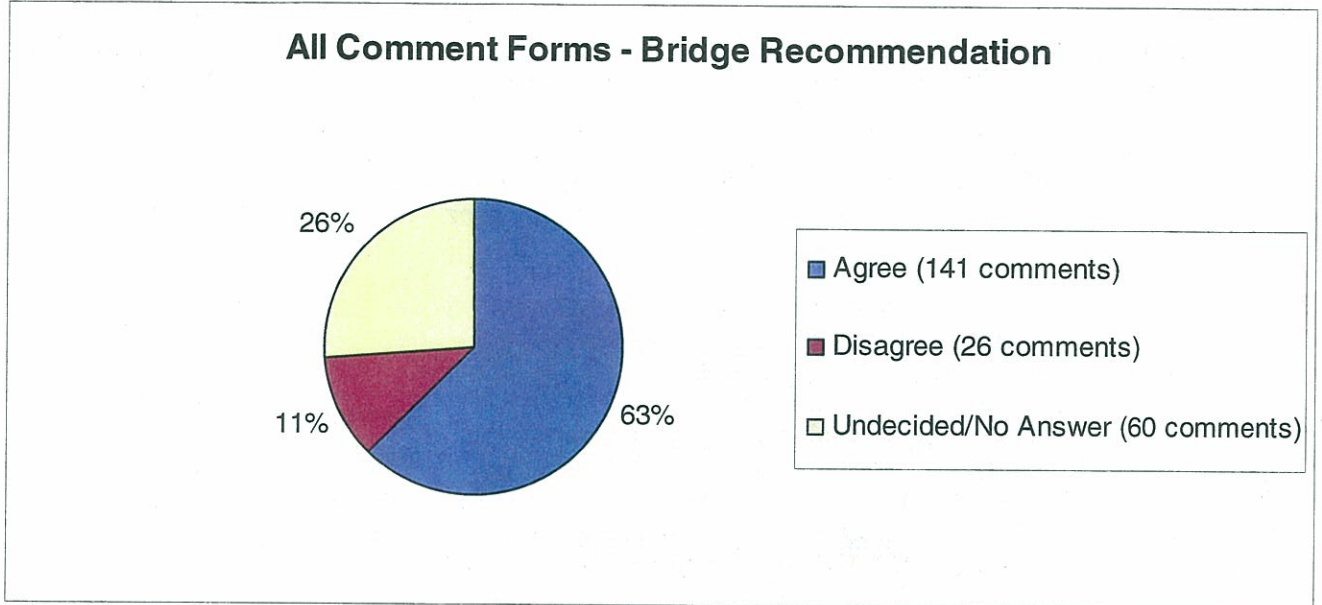
### Community Impacts

- Concerns about impacts to communities are raised in both Oregon and Washington. Comments were made that any increase in lane width and traffic through a neighborhood for expanded capacity is an unacceptable intrusion.

## Responses from Green Public Comment Forms

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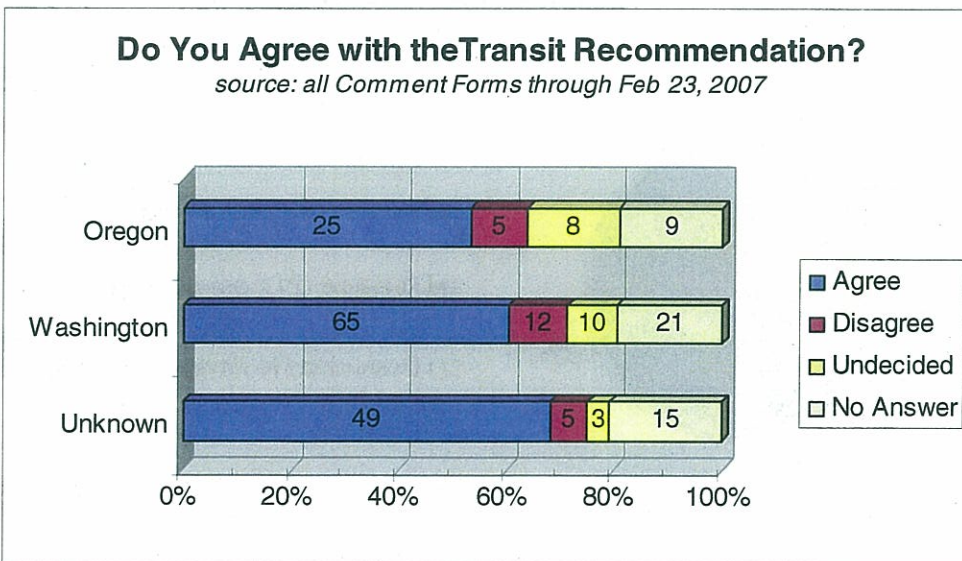
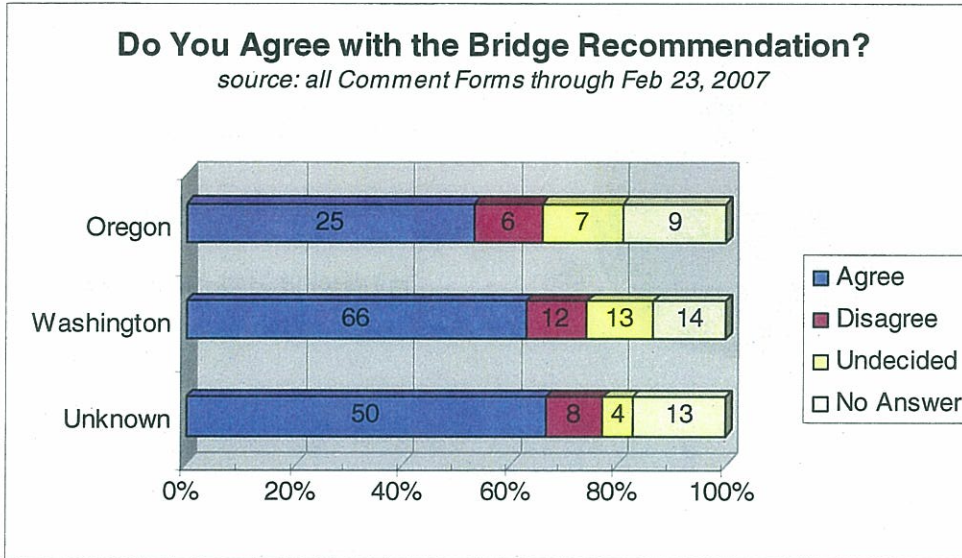
Source: 227 Comment forms received from open houses and other community events January 20 to February 23, 2007



## Responses by State of Residence

Washington residents are generally more supportive than Oregon residents when asked if they support the bridge and transit components of the staff recommendation. When people responded without providing their contact information they were even more likely to support the staff recommendation.

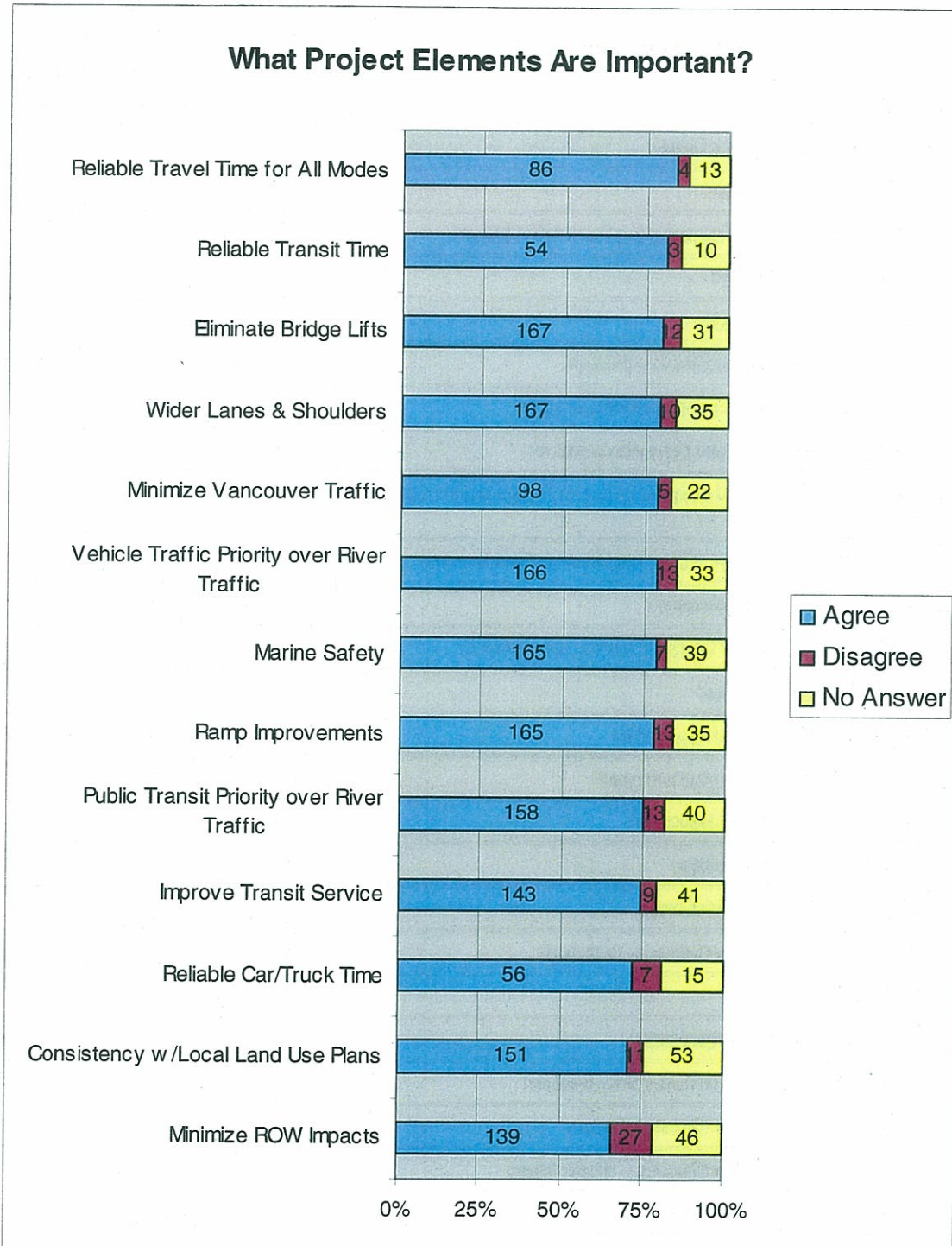
Those in disagreement ranged from 10-15% for each question, regardless of origin, leaving 20-40% who did not provide an answer or are undecided.



## Responses to Other Questions from Comment Forms:

Source: Comment forms received from open houses and other community events January 20 to February 19, 2007

Note: Total numbers of responses to each question varied as wording was clarified on comment forms over the course of the open house events.



## Open Houses and Outreach Events in Washington and Oregon

Project staff hosted four open houses and made presentations and gathered feedback at 50 neighborhood, government, business, and community meetings in Clark County and Portland from November 30, 2006 to February 22, 2007. A total of 1,546 people were engaged through these events. Roughly half (24) of the events listed below took place in the Bridge Influence Area. Thirty events were held in Washington, 19 in Oregon, and one in both states.

DATE	ORGANIZATION	STATE	INSIDE BRIDGE INFLUENCE AREA (BIA)?	NUMBER OF PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS
11/30/06	Kiwanis Club, Cascade Park Chapter	WA		22
12/5/06	Metro Council (work session)	OR		7
12/5/06	SW Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Board	WA	BIA	25
12/6/06	Kiwanis, Downtown Portland	OR		25
12/12/06	Portland Planning Commission	OR		8
12/12/06	Hayden Island Neighborhood Network (HINooN)	OR	BIA	67
12/14/06	Jantzen Beach SuperCenter employee meet and greet	OR	BIA	25
12/14/06	Meeting with Portland Transport blog representatives	OR		13
12/20/06	RPACT (Regional Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation), Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Counties	WA		20
1/4/07	Coalition for a Livable Future -- Forum on Columbia River Crossing	OR		65
1/4/07	Shumway Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	25
1/8/07	Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC)	WA		16
1/9/07	Portland Planning Commission	OR		n/a
1/9/07	East Columbia Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	8
1/11/07	Jantzen Beach SuperCenter meet and greet	OR	BIA	5
1/11/07	Esther Short Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	47
1/11/07	Arnada Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	25
1/18/07	WSDOT Open House, Cowlitz County	WA		7
1/20/07	Open House, Columbia River Crossing – Vancouver	WA	BIA	137
1/23/07	CRC Task Force meeting	WA		9
1/23/07	Rose Village Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	24
1/25/07	African-American Alliance Community Unity Breakfast	OR		45
1/25/07	Open House, Columbia River Crossing, Portland	OR		59
1/30/07	Open House, Columbia River Crossing -- Hayden Island	OR	BIA	111
1/31/07	Piedmont Neighborhood Association	OR	BIA	12

DATE	ORGANIZATION	STATE	INSIDE BRIDGE INFLUENCE AREA (BIA)?	NUMBER OF PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS
2/1/07	Lions Club, Vancouver Chapter	WA	BIA	18
2/1/07	Shumway Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	14
2/5/07	Open House, Columbia River Crossing, Vancouver/Clark County	WA		61
2/6/07	City of Portland Community Fair on Budget, St Johns Community Center	OR		10
2/7/07	Bridgeton Neighborhood Assn. (special meeting on CRC)	OR	BIA	35
2/8/07	Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPACT), Metro	OR		n/a
2/8/07	Arnada Neighborhood Assn.	WA	BIA	21
2/8/07	Hayden Island Neigh. Network (HINooN) -- board of directors	OR	BIA	16
2/12/07	City of Vancouver, City Council Work Session	WA		n/a
2/12/07	West Minnehaha Neighborhood Assn.	WA	BIA	7
2/12/07	Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC)	WA		25
2/12/07	Multnomah County Republican Party, Central Committee Meeting	OR		68
2/12/07	Retired Carpenters Union	OR		32
2/13/07	Washington State Senate Transportation Committee	WA		n/a
2/14/07	Federal Highway Administration - Western Federal Lands Highway Division	WA	BIA	63
2/14/07	Rotary Club, Vancouver	WA	BIA	190
2/14/07	Kenton Neighborhood Assn.	OR	BIA	10
2/15/07	Oregon Senate Business, Transportation, and Workforce Development Committee	OR		n/a
2/15/07	Retired Public Employees of Clark County	WA	BIA	19
2/16/07	Joint Meeting of the Washington Senate Transportation Committee and the Oregon Senate Business, Transportation and Workforce Development Committee	OR WA		n/a
2/20/07	Kiwanis Club, Boulevard Chapter	WA		16
2/20/07	Multnomah County Commission	OR		n/a
2/20/07	Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance	WA		22
2/20/07	Hough Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	26
2/22/07	Metro Council public hearing	OR		n/a
2/22/07	SR-502 Open House (WSDOT)	WA		25
2/22/07	C-TRAN Citizens Advisory Committee	WA		20
2/22/07	Pleasant Highlands Neighborhood Association	WA		30
2/22/07	Carter Park Neighborhood Association	WA	BIA	11
	<b>TOTAL for November 30 through February 22, 2007</b>			<b>1,546</b>

