



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2015

TO: Eric Holmes, City Manager

FROM: Patrick Sweeney, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner, CED

RE: **Recent studies completed regarding the I-5/Mill Plain Interchange**

CC: Brian Carlson, Public Works Director Ryan Lopossa, PE, Public Works
Chad Eiken, Director CED Sandra Towne, Planning Manager, CED

The purpose of this memo is to identify recent interstate highway planning, design and analysis work done for the I-5/Mill Plain Interchange project (see attached plan view of interchange improvement area).

The I-5/Mill Plain Interchange project has been studied extensively in concert with the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project. The Mill Plain interchange was one of three I-5 interchanges in the state of Washington that would have been improved within the 7-mile CRC I-5 project corridor.

The CRC [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) (FEIS) provides full documentation of the planning, design and environmental analysis of the CRC project corridor, including the Mill Plain interchange. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) were the lead federal agencies for this study. Both agencies were charged to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process was properly conducted and completed, including the publication of the FEIS. After the NEPA process was completed, FTA and FHWA signed a [Record of Decision](#) (ROD). By signing the ROD, the FTA and FHWA affirmed that federal regulations were met.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and local governments in the Vancouver region joined together to develop the strategy for addressing the highway and regional access needs within the CRC project area, including the Mill Plain interchange. WSDOT led the preliminary highway design and environmental analysis for the CRC project in southwest Washington.

The CRC FEIS represents a significant federal and state investment in I-5 highway planning and environmental analysis that can be leveraged in the development of the final design and engineering of a stand-alone Mill Plain/I-5 interchange project. The FEIS will provide WSDOT, the City of Vancouver, and other project partners with data and analysis that support the need and justification for this critical interchange improvement project.