

INTERSTATE 5 COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT

Record of Decision

FHWA-WA-EIS-08-01-F

Decision

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), pursuant to 23 CFR Part 771.127, find that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been satisfied for the construction and operation of the Selected Alternative of the Interstate 5 (I-5) Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project (Project). This Record of Decision (ROD) also provides findings on other environmentally-related federal statutory requirements.

This ROD is based on FHWA's and FTA's close monitoring and independent evaluations of the process followed by the Columbia River Crossing Project and its project sponsors in setting forth and considering the effects of the Project and the available alternatives. This process included the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (May 2008), the 17th Street Technical Memorandum (March 2010), Composite Deck Truss Bridge Type NEPA Re-evaluation (March 2011), Steel Bridge Documented Categorical Exclusion (November 2010), Environmental NEPA Re-evaluation (May 2011), and the Columbia River Crossing Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (September 2011) (the DEIS and FEIS are sometimes collectively referred to as "EIS") and the Final Section 4(f) Evaluation (September 2011) (all collectively referred to as the "Environmental Review Documents"), and the determinations and evaluations made therein.

This ROD describes the basis for the decision and the alternatives considered, identifies the environmentally preferred alternative, and documents the mitigation measures that will be implemented. The public's comments on the FEIS and responses thereto are also included in the document and accompanying appendices. The summary descriptions included herein do not supersede or negate any of the information, descriptions, or evaluations provided in the Environmental Review Documents, except as may be expressly noted below. This ROD and the associated published Environmental Review Documents, incorporated herein by reference, constitute the FHWA and FTA environmental record for the project.

The Project is the Selected Alternative (SA), identified in the FEIS as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which, in summary, provides transportation improvements throughout the 5-mile project corridor, including:

- A new river crossing over the Columbia River and I-5 highway improvements including improvements to seven interchanges, north and south of the river, as well as related enhancements to the local street network. Add new structures and improve the existing I-5 mainline bridge over North Portland Harbor.