



BOARD RESOLUTION BR-08-019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AREA AUTHORITY (C-TRAN) BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENDORSING A LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA) FOR THE PROPOSED COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING (CRC) PROJECT, ESTABLISHING POLICY FOR FUTURE CRC PROJECT DECISIONS, AND PROVIDING DIRECTION TO C-TRAN'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (RTC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING THE CRC LPA.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (dba C-TRAN), as a municipal corporation organized under Ch. 36.57A RCW, is empowered to provide public transportation services; and

WHEREAS, C-TRAN is authorized under Ch. 81.104 RCW, to plan, develop, and implement High Capacity Transit (HCT) services; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Interstate Bridge is one of only two Columbia River crossings between Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR and approximately 150,000 people rely on crossing the I-5 Bridge daily by car, transit, bicycle and on foot; and

WHEREAS, the existing structures are aging and in need of seismic upgrade, and the closely-spaced interchanges are in need of safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, HCT does not currently connect Vancouver and Portland, and the bicycle and pedestrian paths do not meet current standards; and

WHEREAS, the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Final Strategic Plan recommended congestion and mobility improvements within the I-5 Bridge Influence Area in 2002; and

WHEREAS, The CRC Task Force was established in February 2005 to advise the Oregon Department of Transportation and Washington State Department of Transportation on project related issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the CRC Task Force advised development of the project's Purpose and Need Statement, alternatives development, and narrowing of the alternatives to five that would be studied in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); and

WHEREAS, the CRC project published a Draft DEIS on May 2, 2008 disclosing the environmental and community impacts and potential mitigation of the five alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the CRC project held two open houses and two public hearings during the DEIS comment period, and received over 700 comments within the DEIS comment period ending July 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Metro Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet and C-TRAN, as sponsor agencies, are co-lead agencies in the issuance of the Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement ; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008 the CRC Task Force adopted a resolution recommending a replacement bridge with three through lanes northbound and three through lanes southbound; light rail transit; and a high capacity transit alignment and terminus that is agreed to by the City of Vancouver and C-TRAN and meets technical and federal funding requirements; and

WHEREAS, the CRC project is committed to implementing the principles of sustainability into project planning, design and construction in order to improve the natural environmental and the regional economy whenever possible; and to minimize effects related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, endorsement of an LPA is one “narrowing” step in a multi-step process and an important opportunity for the C-TRAN Board of Directors to articulate both support for the project and concerns and consideration for future decision making, which will be weighed at this and subsequent steps; and

WHEREAS, the C-TRAN Board of Directors will vote directly on several subsequent steps in this multi-step process as the project proposal evolves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the C-TRAN Board of Directors, incorporating by reference herein the above Recitals:

1. Endorses an LPA for the CRC Project as follows:

- A. RIVER CROSSING: A replacement bridge on two structures of three through lanes in each direction with a minimum number of auxiliary lanes needed for functionality.
- B. HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT (HCT) MODE: Light rail transit between the Oregon side of the river and the northern HCT terminus in Clark County.
- C. HCT TERMINUS: Clark College in Clark County without use of satellite park-and-ride lots.

D. HCT ALIGNMENT:

1. The CRC HCT terminus, station placement, alignment and design must be flexible and allow for future HCT extensions and connections in Clark County.
2. The HCT alignment must permit local bus route access along the HCT alignment in downtown Vancouver.

E. HCT FINANCING:

1. Capital financing of the HCT component of the CRC Project shall be structured in such a way that C-TRAN is not required to ask voters for capital construction funding.
2. Any means chosen to finance operations of the HCT component of the CRC project shall be submitted to impacted C-TRAN voters for approval.
3. Initiation of HCT service in Clark County should provide a net service benefit to existing C-TRAN patrons, without diverting existing revenues from C-TRAN's current operating and capital costs.
4. CRC Project construction, operation and maintenance costs should be divided between Washington and Oregon according to the proportion of the project within each state. For HCT capital, operation and maintenance costs the proportions shall be calculated by dividing the length of the HCT corridor in Washington and the length of the HCT corridor in Oregon, as determined by the State DOT's acknowledged state line in the Columbia River, by the total length of the HCT corridor from the Expo Center Station to the terminus in Clark County.

F. SUSTAINABILITY: Highway, bridge and HCT design and construction should reflect principles of sustainability, cost efficiency, context sensitivity, and avoid and minimize adverse impacts.

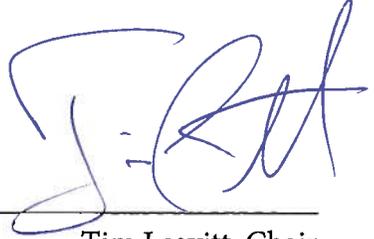
2. We support creation of a formal oversight committee that strives for consensus and provides for a public process of review, deliberation and decision-making for outstanding major project issues and decisions; which committee shall be composed of one top level elected or appointed representative from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Transportation, cities of Portland and Vancouver, Metro, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, TriMet, C-TRAN, and two representatives of the public.
3. Directs its representative serving on the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Advisory Board to support and advocate for the CRC LPA consistent with this resolution.

ADOPTED at the regular session of the Board of the Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority, this 8th day July of 2008.

AYES: Marc Boldt, Linda Dietzman, Bill Ganley, Jim Irish, Betty Sue Morris Jeanne Stewart,
Steve Stuart, Chair Tim Leavitt

NAYS: Jeanne Harris

ABSENT:



Tim Leavitt, Chair

Attest:



Debbie Jermann, Clerk of the Board

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