

**Annual Report**  
(July 1, 2006 Through June 30, 2007)

**Metro Work Tasks and Accomplishments Performed for the  
Columbia River Crossing Project**

The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) Project is a multi-modal transportation alternatives analysis, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, that is evaluating transportation solutions to mobility problems within the I-5/Columbia River Bridge influence area, a roughly five mile segment along Interstate 5 between State Route 500 in Washington and Columbia Boulevard in Oregon. The Project is led by ODOT and WSDOT, with participation by Project sponsors that include Metro. Metro has an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with WSDOT to perform a variety of services in support of the Project including FTA coordination, travel demand forecasting and transportation analysis, development of transit alternatives, and supporting the various Project committees and working groups.

Metro assistance to the CRC Project consists of several basic elements including:

- 1) transport modeling;
- 2) transit project management advice;
- 3) overall Project strategic advice; and
- 4) facilitation of CRC Project and Metro Council coordination.

During the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, Metro, through its Transportation Research and Modeling Services (TRMS), provided numerous transport model runs, including the following:

Build Alternatives

- Light Rail
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Enhanced Transit System
- Varying termini
- Varying park and ride lots

In addition, Metro provided modeling of potential tolling including:

Tolling Analysis

- I-5 bridge toll
- I-5 and I-205 bridge toll
- Varying tolls – sensitivity analysis
- Varying value of time and tolls – sensitivity analysis

Metro participated in the CRC Project Development Team meetings, offering advice and providing coordination with the Federal Transit Administration concerning the transit portions of the CRC Project.

With regard to overall Project strategic advice, one example of Metro assistance is the staff support provided to Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder as he led the effort, as requested by the CRC Task Force, to explore another lower cost alternative for consideration.

Following are the work tasks and accomplishments from July 2006 through June 2007. as completed by Metro and consistent with the IGA:

## **July 2006**

- Participated in resource agency review of methods and data reports for air quality.
- The July 12 Columbia River Crossing Task Force meeting approved the screening of alternatives.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and Transit and Travel Demand Forecasting and Engineering Design Working Group meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.
- Provided, along with CRC staff, a tour and background information to FTA.

## **August 2006**

- Participated in August 4 discussion of alternative alignment drawings.
- Attended August 7 briefing of FTA and FHWA on alternative alignment drawings.
- Attended the August 16 Columbia River Crossing Task Force meeting. At the meeting the Task Force made presentations on design concepts, alternatives screening process, fuel costs and travel demand and preliminary alternatives packages.
- Reviewed and transmitted transit outputs for alternatives H-1 (2030 General Purpose Build Highway with Express Bus), H2-T2 (2030 Managed Lane Build Highway with Express Bus) and T-1 (2030 Managed Lane Build Highway with No Build Bus) alternatives.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and Transit and Travel Demand Forecasting and Engineering Design Working Group meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.
- Coordinated with Travel Demand Forecasting Working Group and tolling consultants to prepare a methodology paper on implementing tolls in the travel demand model.

## **September 2006**

- Participated in September 13 InterCep (group of state and federal resource agencies) meeting where development packages and screening criteria were reviewed and discussed.
- Participated in discussions about transit outputs for alternatives H-1 (2030 General Purpose Build Highway with Express Bus), H2-T2 (2030 Managed Lane Build Highway with Express Bus), and T-1 (2030 Managed Lane Build Highway with No Build Bus) alternatives.
- Participated in September 11 telephone conference call with CRC, FTA and FHWA about joint memorandum of understanding in order to ensure consistency with FTA and FHWA policies.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and Transit and Travel Demand Forecasting and Engineering Design Working Group meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.
- Reviewed and commented on the draft technical report: High Capacity Transit on Downtown Vancouver Streets.

## **October 2006**

- Facilitated and participated in October 3 update presentation to the Metro Council.
- Prepared a draft letter for Metro Council consideration, which was discussed at the October 17 work session.
- Distributed an October 19 letter signed by all Metro Councilors to the CRC Task Force. The letter recommends recognizing the recommendations of the Strategic Plan of the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership, to determine and use desired outcomes as a Project guide, determine Project priorities, recognize financial limitations, coordinate further about the railroad bridge, provide alternatives in the draft environmental impact statement that demonstrate the fundamental choices and to provide for thorough public vetting before closing options.
- Participated in an October 11 InterCep meeting where specific road and transit design alternatives were reviewed and discussed.
- Produced the Oregon side description of the pros and cons of migrating from a 2030 forecast time horizon to 2035.
- Participated in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Sponsor Agency Senior Staff meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.

## **November 2006**

- Reviewed and provided comments to a draft CRC survey to be administered in the near future.
- Reviewed and commented on draft CRC staff recommendations for narrowing alternatives.
- Participated in November 21 Project Sponsors Council meeting where draft CRC staff recommendations concerning narrowing alternatives were discussed.
- Participated in November 29 CRC Task Force meeting where CRC draft recommendations for narrowing alternatives for the upcoming draft environmental impact statement were presented and discussed.
- Prepared and coordinated presentation and materials for December 5 Metro Council work session.
- Participated in a November 6 Environmental Working Group meeting where tribal coordination and performance measures related to environmental resources were reviewed.
- Participated in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Sponsor Agency Senior Staff meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.

## **December 2006**

- Facilitated a Metro Council work session on December 5 where the CRC staff recommendations concerning selecting alternatives to be studied in the draft environmental impact statement were presented and discussed.
- Participated in the December 13 InterCep meeting where the CRC staff recommendations concerning possible alternatives to be advanced to the draft EIS were presented and discussed. Concurrence by InterCep is being sought by the February meeting.
- Witnessed focus group discussion of transportation problems in the I-5 corridor.
- Participated in the December 13 Community Design Integration kick-off meeting where development of the community design framework and establishment of the urban design working group and schedule were discussed.
- Participated in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Sponsor Agency Senior Staff meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.
- Participated in the December 21 Sponsor Agency Senior Staff meeting where regional land use allocations and BRT and LRT optimization efforts were discussed as well as draft agendas for January Task Force and Project Sponsor Council meetings.

## **January 2007**

- Discussed with individual Metro Councilors the CRC staff recommendations concerning alternatives to be advanced to a draft environmental impact statement.
- Initiated preparation of a resolution to document Metro Council policy direction on the alternatives to be advanced to a draft environmental impact statement.
- Continued participation in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Sponsor Agency Senior Staff meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.
- Participated in the January 23 CRC Task Force meeting where further discussion of CRC staff recommendations occurred and a presentation concerning the economy and Interstate 5 was given.

## **February 2007**

- Prepared four draft resolutions for Metro Council discussion at a February 13 work session and February 22 Council meeting. The approved resolution provided policy guidance to the Metro Council representative on the CRC Task Force. Recommendations included adding a lower cost supplemental bridge alternative, as well as studying mitigation measures so that the Project impacts were addressed.
- Continued discussion of transportation modeling assumptions and methodology.

- Discussed with individual Metro Councilors the CRC staff recommendations concerning alternatives to be advanced to a draft environmental impact statement.
- Continued participation in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Sponsor Agency Senior Staff meetings.
- Coordinated with CRC staff about CRC Project alternatives to be tested using Metro travel forecasting model.

### **March 2007**

- Subcommittee meetings concerning a fourth alternative, including a possible lower cost supplemental bridge alternative, were held in March in preparation for the March 27 Task Force meeting.
- Continued discussion of transportation modeling assumptions and methodology to prepare for year 2030 travel forecasts for the draft environmental impact statement.
- Provided comments about the northern transit terminus options.
- Continued participation in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Senior Staff meetings.

### **April 2007**

- The Task Force added a “fourth alternative” to the DEIS that includes retention of the existing I-5 bridge, addition of a new highway and transit bridge, and increased transportation demand management and system management measures.
- Metro staff initiated travel demand forecasting for the DEIS.
- Project staff continued development of the Main Street LRT alignment, and worked to optimize the Bus Rapid Transit and LRT alternatives for the DEIS.
- Continued participation in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital cost value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Senior Staff meetings.

### **May 2007**

- Participated in discussions with CRC staff concerning 1) Project schedule and ways to compress the DEIS timeline, 2) value engineering options, and 3) possible High Capacity Transit options;
- Project staff continued development of the Main Street LRT alignment, especially revisions to draft park-and-ride lot locations and size, alignment issues, transit user benefit areas, and capital and operating cost implications.

- Continued participation in discussions about transit including EMME2/VISSUM outputs for bus travel speeds and coordination/calibration, Portland bus mall capacity and routing issues and assumptions for CRC alternatives, LRT ridership, capital costs, value engineering, and bus rapid transit post-processing.
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Senior Staff meetings.

### **June 2007**

- Continued discussions with CRC staff about Project schedule/timeline, value engineering, and possible High Capacity Transit options;
- Ran transportation model networks as requested by Project team.
- Continued participation in discussions about transit variables;
- Participated in weekly Project Development Team meetings and monthly Senior Staff meetings.

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