

# Richmond Neighborhood Association

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I am writing on behalf of the Richmond Neighborhood Association to urge you to oppose the proposed 12-lane bridge known as the Columbia River Crossing. We believe this bridge would have strong negative impacts for the region, both environmentally and economically. Our concerns regarding the bridge include:

1. **It encourages sprawl.** A bigger bridge makes it easier for people to choose to live in Vancouver and commute to Portland, increasing traffic, greenhouse gases, and sprawl.
2. **Unbelievably expensive.** The CRC is the largest public works project in NW history, estimated to cost \$4.2 billion dollars. At a time of economic uncertainty and without a clear source of funding, it makes no sense to add to our debt.
3. **It won't have a significant impact.** Traffic studies project that by 2030, a new bridge would only reduce commute times by 5 minutes as compared to not building the bridge at all.
4. **Vancouver opposes tolling.** CRC figures show if a new bridge were built without tolls, the number of people crossing the Columbia would increase dramatically. Tolling reduces congestion and is a main source of funding for the bridge.
5. **Assumes massive increase in traffic.** Recent studies show Oregonians are driving less. Highway miles driven decreased from 20.9 billion in 2002 to 20.6 in 2006, even though the state's population grew about 4 percent.

Additionally, the Richmond Neighborhood Association encourages Portland adopt stringent standards regarding the nature of expansion for this region and the strategies used to support growth. We have seen the outcome of car-centered transportation planning in cities like Los Angeles and Denver; building bigger roads and bridges simply does not work. Portland is a great city because we strive to lessen our footprint and develop responsibly and sustainably, which includes a transportation model that prioritizes livable communities, including public, bicycle, and pedestrian centered transportation. By drafting a sustainable development policy, you have the opportunity to preserve this legacy.

Thank you for your time,

Jeff Horne  
Richmond Neighborhood Association