

SR-35 Columbia River Crossing



The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, in partnership with the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation and local cities and counties, have begun the second phase of a study of alternatives for a new or improved Highway 35 Columbia River crossing. The first phase of this effort was completed last year, resulting in vision and mission statements for the study and these four possible alternative crossings:

- Stanley Rock: connecting Koberg State Park to Bingen Point
- Low Corridor: approximately the same alignment as the current bridge
- High Corridor: approximately the same alignment as the current bridge but at a much higher elevation; connecting from Button Junction to Jewett Boulevard (SR-141)
- West Hood River Interchange: connecting I-84 in Oregon to SR-14 in Washington

A consulting team led by Parsons-Brinckerhoff was recently hired to assist with the study. The study is organized into three tiers. Each tier will include the option to proceed to a more detailed evaluation or determine that a new crossing is not feasible.

Phase 2 of Feasibility Study Underway

The outcome of the study will be an improved understanding of the potential benefits and

drawbacks of a new or improved crossing, short and long term recommendations for improvements, and an implementation and funding strategy.

Some Key Issues

The public will be asked to help identify the pertinent, high-priority issues as alternative designs for a new or improved crossing are studied. These factors have been identified to date:

- Visual impacts/aesthetics
- River traffic/navigation
- Tolls
- Bridge and traffic operations
- Safety
- Accommodating a variety of uses and alternative transportation options
- Endangered Species Act and other environmental issues
- Maintenance and operation
- Connections to I-84 and SR-14
- Effects on the local and regional economy
- Cost and financing
- Commercial needs
- Location



Community Participation

The SR-35 Columbia River crossing serves communities in Oregon and Washington in many ways. It helps connect people to their jobs, friends, recreational, shopping and other activities. It provides a vital transportation link for businesses on both sides of the river to send and receive their products and materials. Not only how it functions, but its appearance is very important. The public's participation in reviewing and refining crossing alternatives is essential. Please plan to:

- Attend community meetings and open houses
- Request presentations to your neighborhood, business and civic groups
- Complete questionnaires such as one attached to this brochure
- Engage in projects that involve school children
- View displays in community buildings in Bingen, Hood River and White Salmon

First Community Open House Scheduled

The first in a series of public events to discuss issues and possible impacts of this project will be held on:

**Thursday, October 12,
5 to 8 p.m. at the Hood River Inn
River View Room**

The Inn is located on the Columbia River at the south end of the Hood River Bridge, adjacent to exit 64, off I-84.

This meeting will offer opportunities to:

- Learn more about the study
- Identify important issues that should be considered as the study proceeds
- Ask questions and make comments
- Tell us how you would like to be involved
- Obtain information about other transportation studies that affect residents and business people on both sides of the river

As a first step in helping identify and prioritize study issues, please fill out, detach, fold and mail the questionnaire on the following pages, or go to the project Web site at:

www.rtc.wa.gov/studies/sr35 and complete the online questionnaire.

For More Information

To find out more about the study, please contact

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www.rtc.wa.gov/studies/sr35

Questionnaire

SR-35 Columbia River Crossing Feasibility Study

1. Tell us about yourself.

Where do you

Live? Bingen White Salmon Hood River
 Other (please specify) _____

Work? Bingen White Salmon Hood River
 Other (please specify) _____

About how often do you use the bridge between Hood River and White Salmon?

- Everyday Few times a week
 Once a week Few times a month
 Once a month Less than once a month

2. To date, the public has identified the following key issues associated with a new or improved crossing. Please rank their importance on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 most important and 5 least important.

	<i>MOST IMPORTANT</i>		<i>NEUTRAL</i>		<i>LEAST IMPORTANT</i>
Location	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Alternative transportation opportunities (e.g., walking or biking)	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Safety	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Commercial needs	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
River traffic/navigation	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Operation & maintenance	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Environmental impacts	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Visual impacts/aesthetics	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Life expectancy of current bridge	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Connections to adjacent highways (I-84 and SR-14)	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Cost and financing	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Tolls	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Economic impacts	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

3. Which of the following financing methods should be explored to pay for a new crossing? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> State gas tax revenues
<input type="radio"/> Federal gas tax revenues
<input type="radio"/> Local (city and county) road & bridge maintenance funds
<input type="radio"/> State and federal grants | <input type="radio"/> Toll revenues
<input type="radio"/> Development charges or impact fees
<input type="radio"/> Local option gasoline tax
<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____
_____ |
|---|---|

4. What are the best ways to inform and involve the public in this study? (Rank 1, 2, 3)

- ___ Direct mailings
- ___ General public meetings or open houses
- ___ Displays in public buildings or commercial businesses
- ___ Presentations to business, neighborhood or other civic groups
- ___ World Wide Web page
- ___ Newspaper or television advertising
- ___ Other (please specify) _____

5. Do you have any other comments?

Please provide your name and address below if you would like to receive additional information about the study and future opportunities to comment, or log on to the Web site at: www.rtc.wa.gov/studies.sr35.

Name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Organization/Title _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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