

# THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING COALITION: CHANGE, GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Columbia River Crossing Coalition (CRCC) supports and advocates for the new I-5 crossing across the Columbia River. The Crossing will provide safer travel, more commuter choice and better freight mobility. The new Crossing will not only solve a wide range of transportation issues, it will help ensure the vitality of our Northwest economy and uphold the environmental ethics of our region.

## The need

The existing I-5 Columbia River bridge is outdated, unsafe and a major contributor to costly traffic congestion and the highest accident rate of any section of I-5.

The bridge is also considered to be the weak link of the entire trade corridor between Mexico and Canada. The new Crossing is widely viewed as essential for the economy because it will relieve congestion to keep goods moving and improve access to highways, ports and labor markets.

## The solution

The Columbia River Crossing is a comprehensive transportation plan, designed to address the needs associated with our regions continued growth. The Crossing supports both Washington and Oregon's larger transportation plans. It encompasses three distinct projects: construction of a new bridge, the creation of a new light rail system, bike lanes and pedestrian paths across the bridge, and improvements to a five-mile stretch of highway on either side of the bridge with seven interchanges that will improve access and traffic flow. The Crossing will also provide a safer alternative for commuters with a design that meets modern seismic requirements and reduces congestion.

Support for the Crossing is growing across the Pacific Northwest. Today, businesses, labor, civic and trade organizations, along with elected officials and concerned citizens are working to make this crucial project a reality.

In Oregon and Washington, businesses and citizens recognize the value of supporting important infrastructure projects. They understand the impact the Crossing will have on our regions economic growth and they realize that our growing region demands more transportation options.

## The Coalition

To voice their support for this important project, representatives from business, labor and community groups have joined together to form this non-profit coalition. The Coalition communicates with the public, decision-makers and the media about the paramount need for the Crossing and its important economic, environmental and safety benefits.

For all public infrastructure projects, funding is a critical component. This will be an even greater issue in difficult economic times. The Coalitions unique work in building public support and communicating that support to elected officials is an important part of securing funding to make the Crossing a reality.

