

A long-term, comprehensive solution

Nancy Boyd

CRC Project Director for Washington

Frank Green

CRC Structural Engineering Manager

**Portland State University
Transportation Seminar**

April 15, 2011



Overview

- **Background**
- **Problems on I-5 and CRC solutions**
- **Independent reviews**
- **Bridge type recommendation process**
- **Moving forward**
- **Questions and discussion**

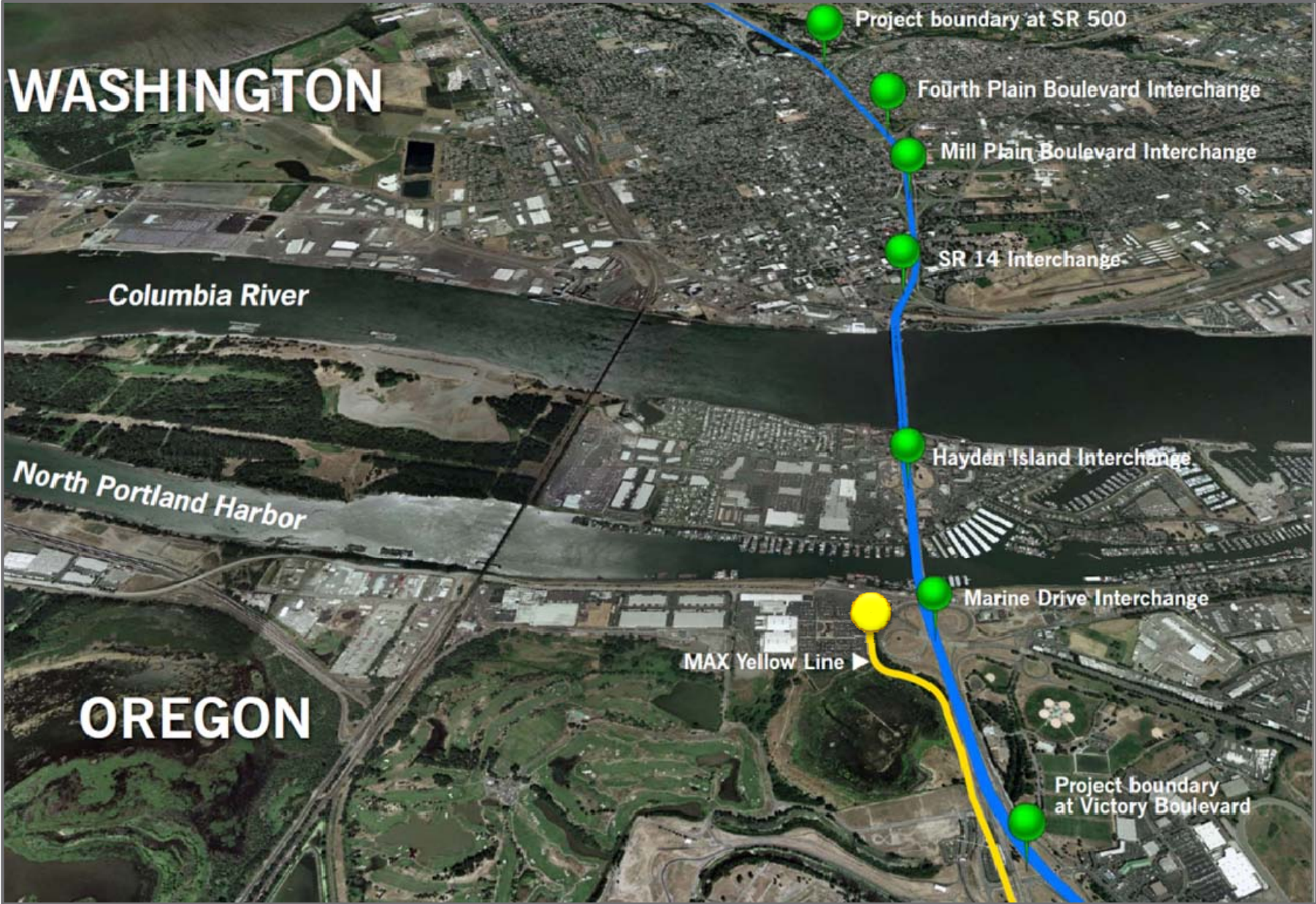
Background



CRC project area



CRC project area



Earthquake risk

- Aging bridges built in 1917 and 1958
- Existing bridges do not meet current seismic safety standards



Safety

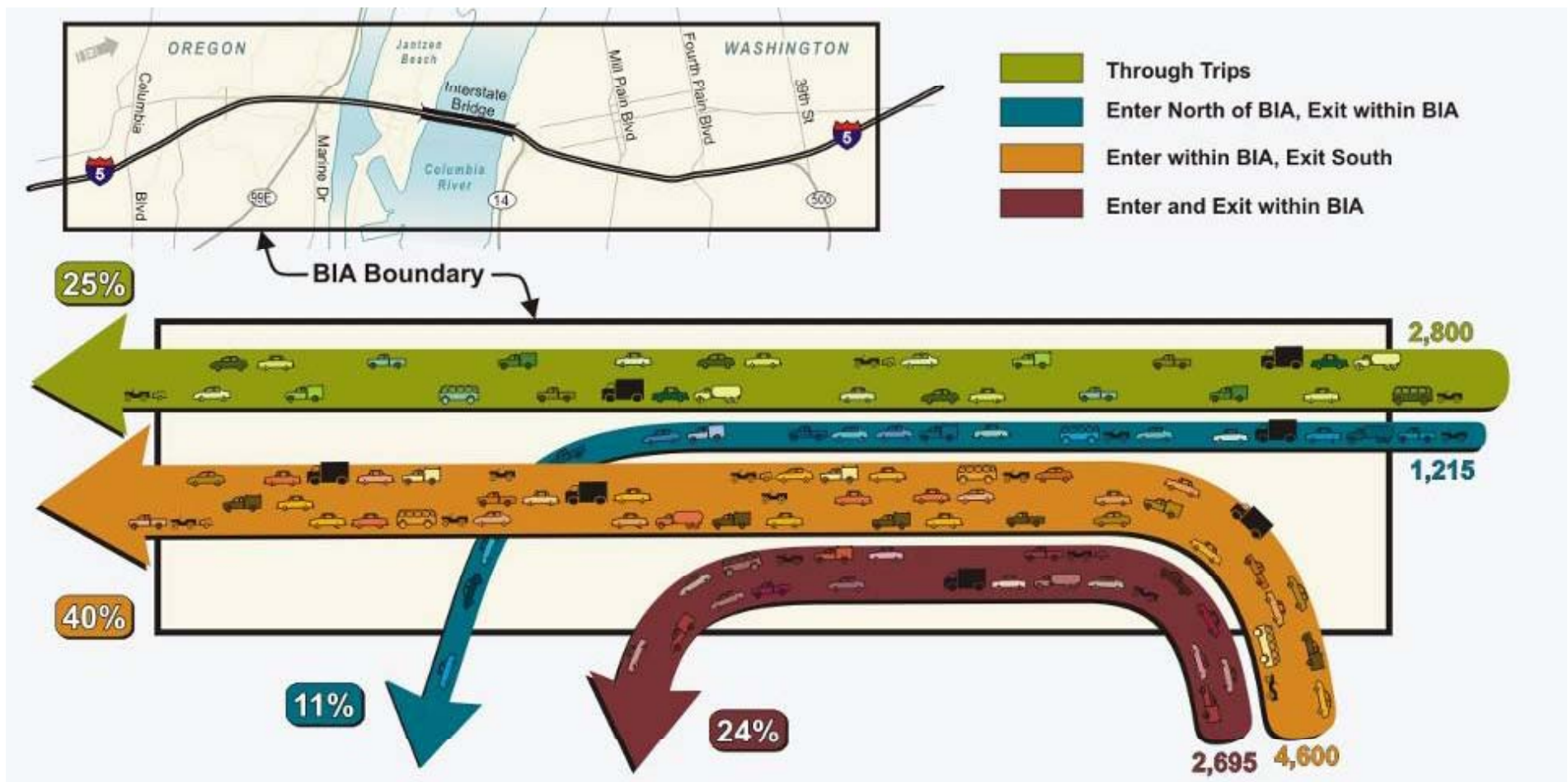
- Highest crash location on I-5 in Oregon
- Collisions increase during congestion
- Twice as high for similar urban highways
- 400 collisions a year; expected to increase 80% by 2030



No shoulders

Freight impaired by congestion

- 75% of freight trucks crossing bridge use an interchange in project area
- 1 in 5 Oregon, 1 in 4 in Washington jobs are trade-related

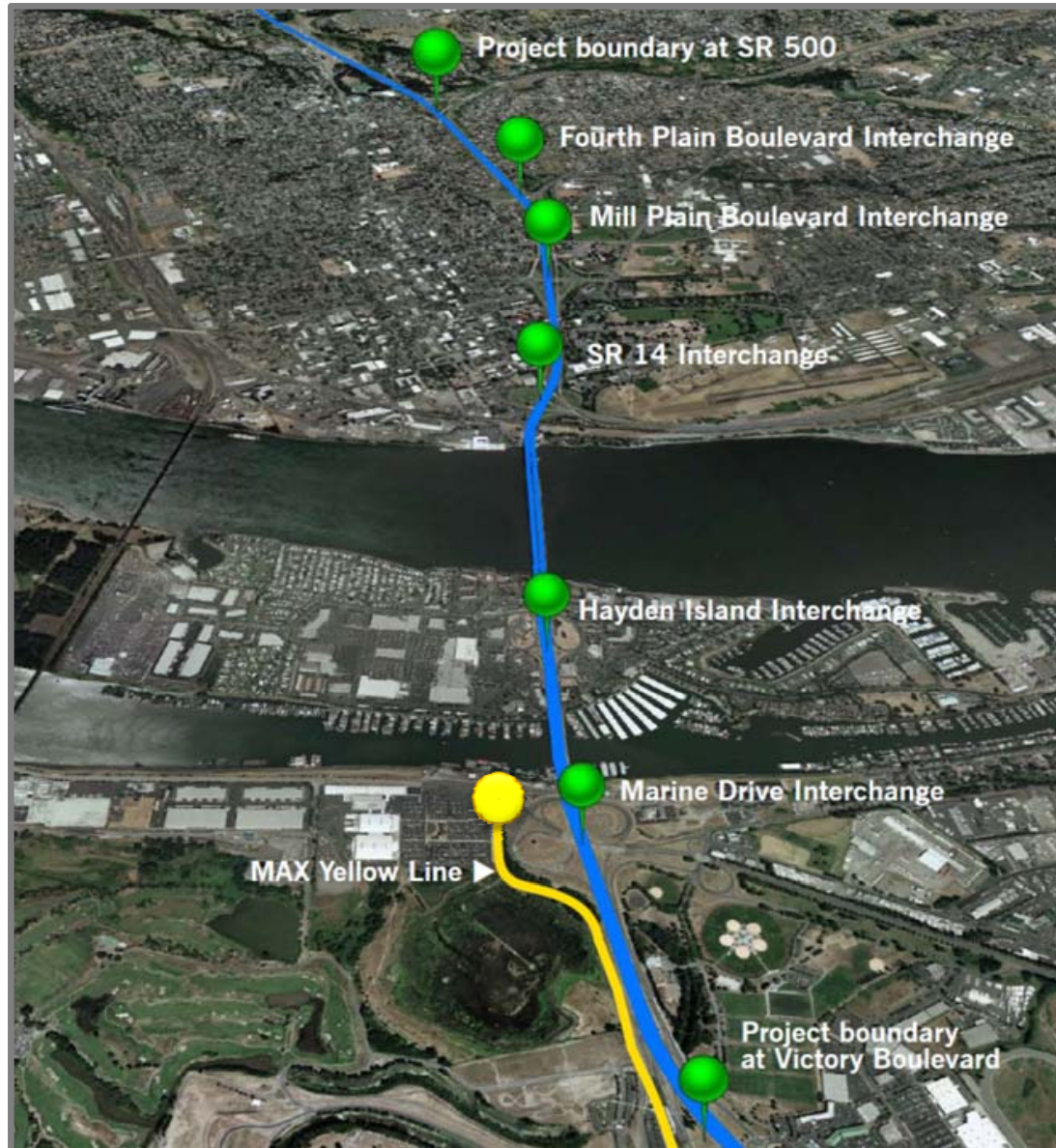


Limited travel options

- Existing bus service is subject to congestion
- Local bus service requires a transfer
- Bike and pedestrian path across bridge is substandard



Critical I-5 problems



- **Collisions**
- **Congestion**
- **Limited transit options**
- **Freight immobility**
- **Narrow bike and pedestrian path**
- **Earthquake risk**

CRC Solutions



Public process to develop solutions



- **2001 – 2002 I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership**
- **2005 – 2008 39-member CRC Task Force**
- **2008 – today Project Sponsors Council and citizen advisory groups**
- **More than 26,000 people engaged at over 875 events**

The CRC is a long-term, comprehensive solution to improve safety and reduce congestion

- Replacement I-5 bridge
- Improvements to closely-spaced highway interchanges
- Light rail extension to Vancouver
- Pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements

Cost estimate: \$3.2 - \$3.6B



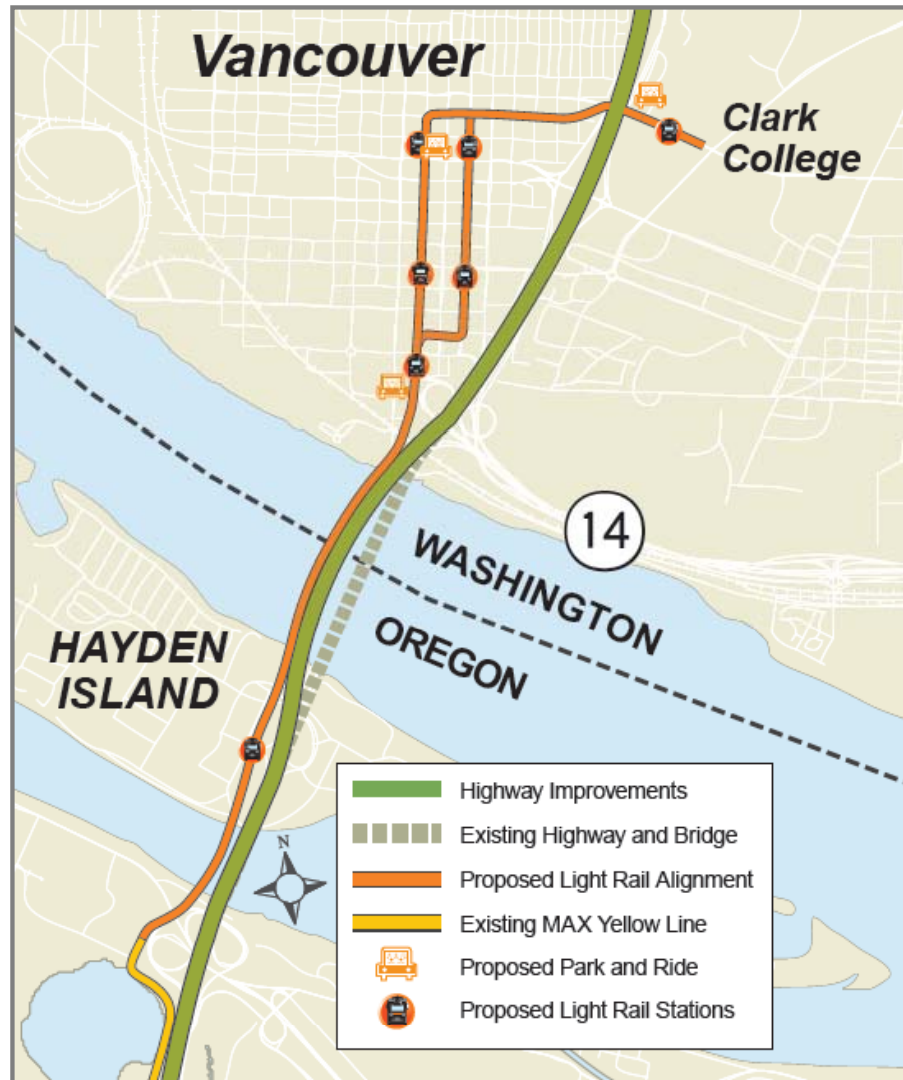
Increased safety and reduced congestion by replacing the I-5 bridge



Expanded travel choices with improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities



Increased safety and reduced congestion by extending light rail



- Get people out of traffic
- Connection to more than 70 miles of rail network in the region
- Encourage up to 6 million transit boardings per year

Project outcomes

- **Supports economic growth**
 - Creates or sustains over 20,000 construction-related jobs
- **Eases congestion**
- **Improves safety**
 - Reduces crashes by 70%
- **Protects the environment**

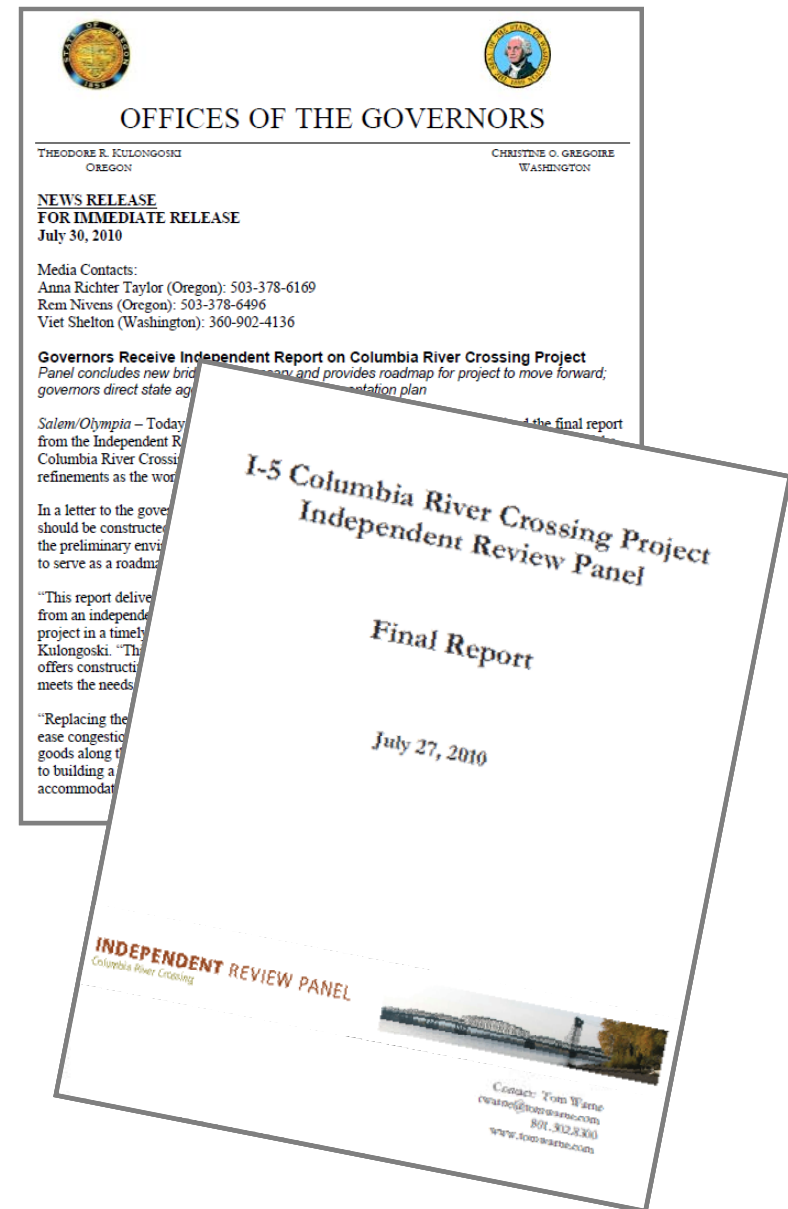


Independent Reviews



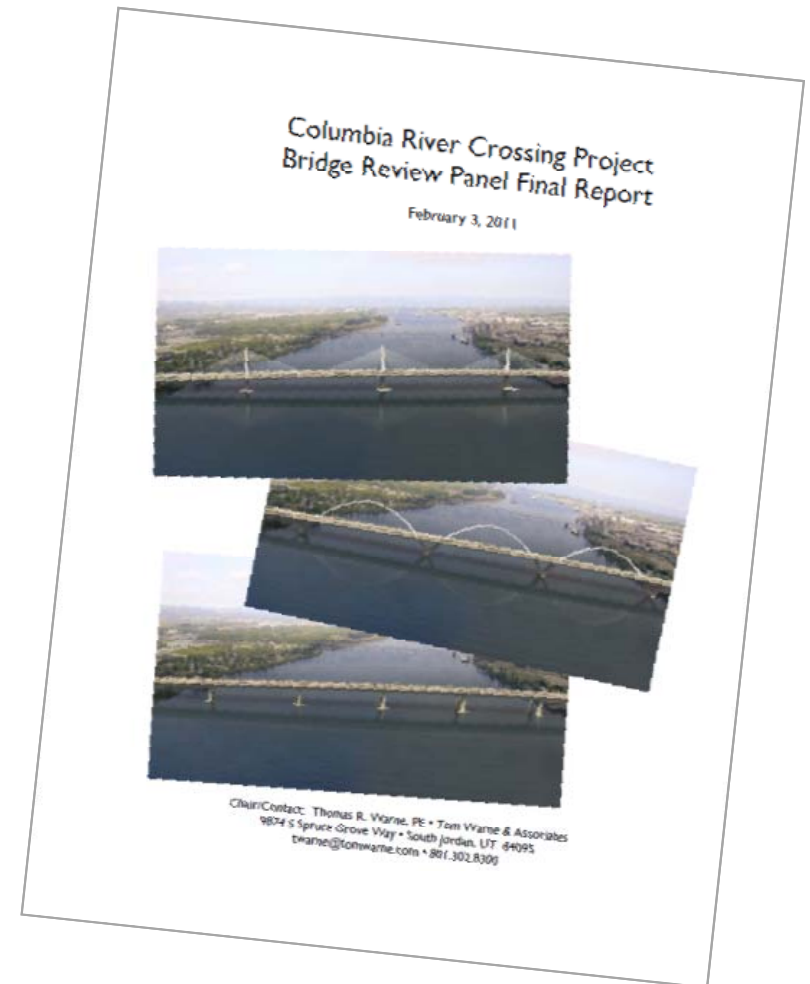
Independent Review Panel

- Convened by governors
- Asked to review:
 - Project implementation plan
 - Financial plan
 - Key objectives and performance measures
- Final report sent to governors in July
- States accept recommendations

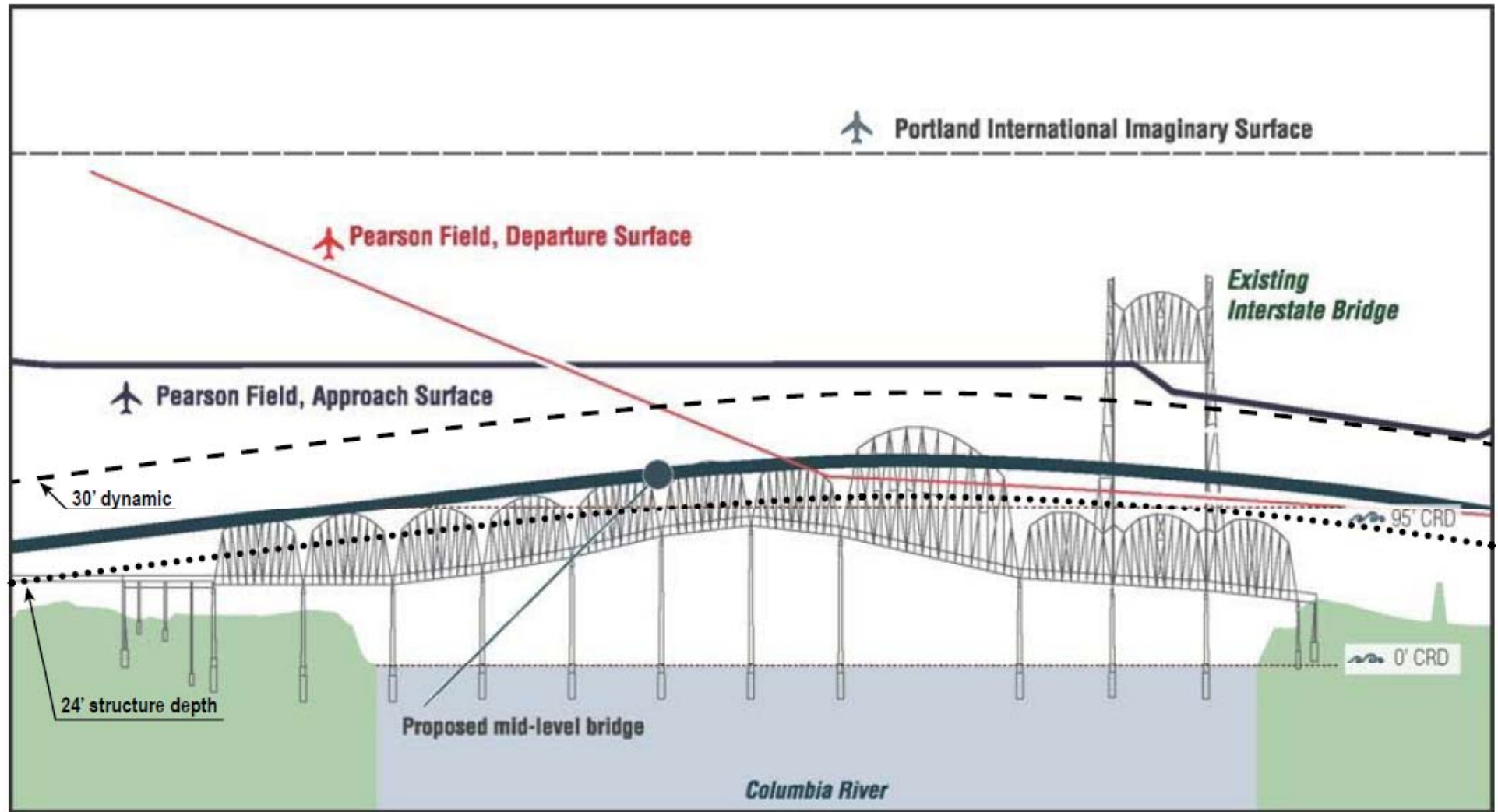


Bridge Review Panel

- 2010 Independent Review Panel findings
- 2010 Bridge Panel: 16- members of national and international bridge expertise
 - Multiple meetings over three months



Vertical constraints



Physical constraints - Oregon



Physical constraints - Washington



Three bridge types

Cable-stayed



Tied arch



Deck truss



Bridge review panel process

- **Panel met several times**
 - Public meeting and testimony prior to panel's report
 - Information session held after release of panel's report
 - Chair met w/ CRC advisory groups, including Project Sponsors Council
- **Draft report from ODOT and WSDOT sent to Governors**
 - Two listening sessions held
- **Governors receive draft report**
 - Review report and public comments received
- **Governors' direction expected soon**

Moving Forward



Project schedule



**Schedule may be adjusted, pending selection of the bridge type in early 2011.*

What to expect

- Continued work with partners and advisory committees on urban design, project development and finance plan.
- Continued work to inform public and solicit input on project design, construction planning and mitigation in advance of FEIS.



Columbia River CROSSING

700 Washington Street, Suite 300
Vancouver WA, 98660

Washington 360-737-2726

Oregon 503-256-2726

Toll-Free 866-396-2726

www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org

feedback@columbiarivercrossing.org

