

# Columbia River **CROSSING**



## Partnerships: An essential component for success

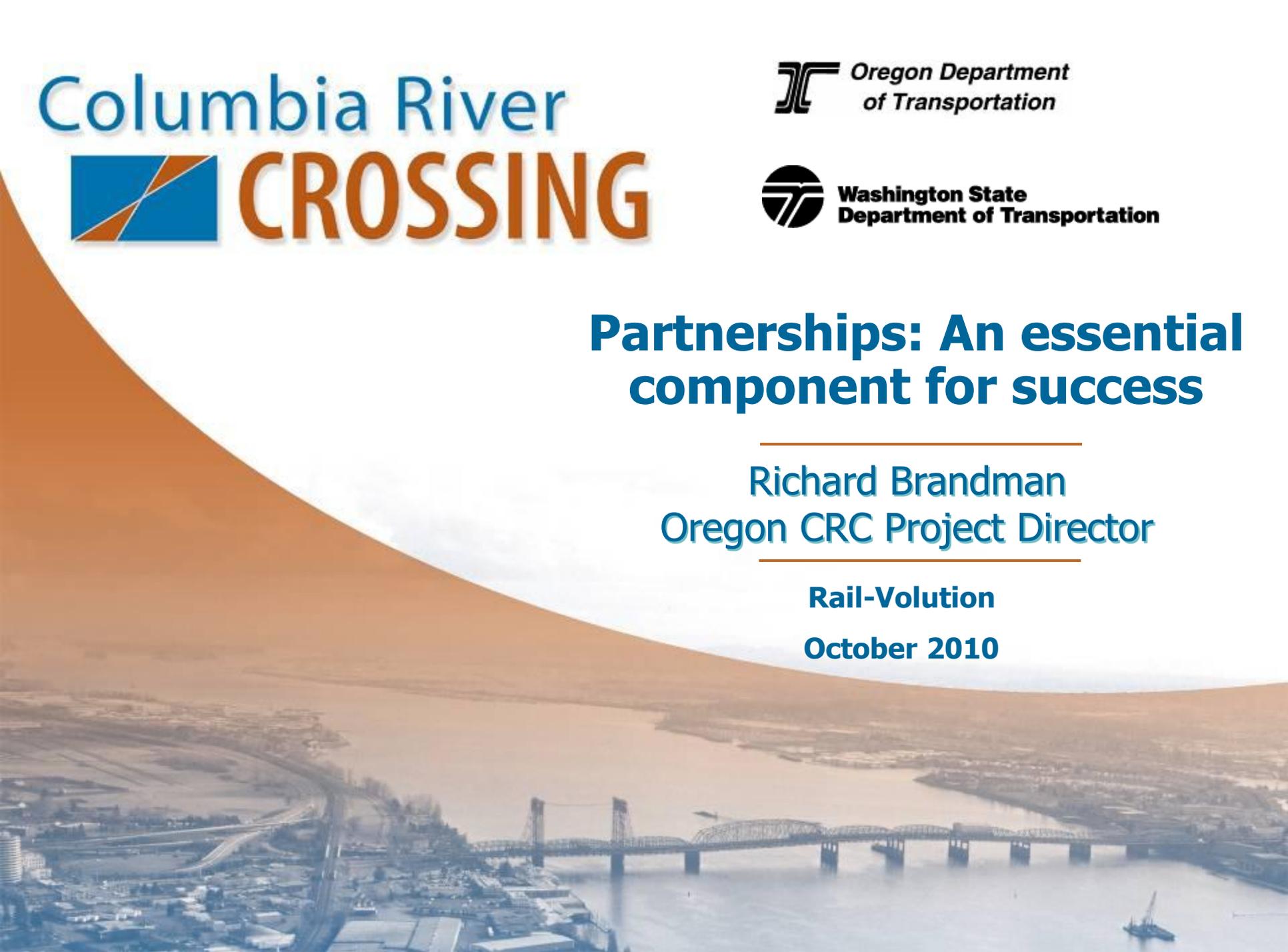
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Richard Brandman  
Oregon CRC Project Director

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**Rail-Volution**

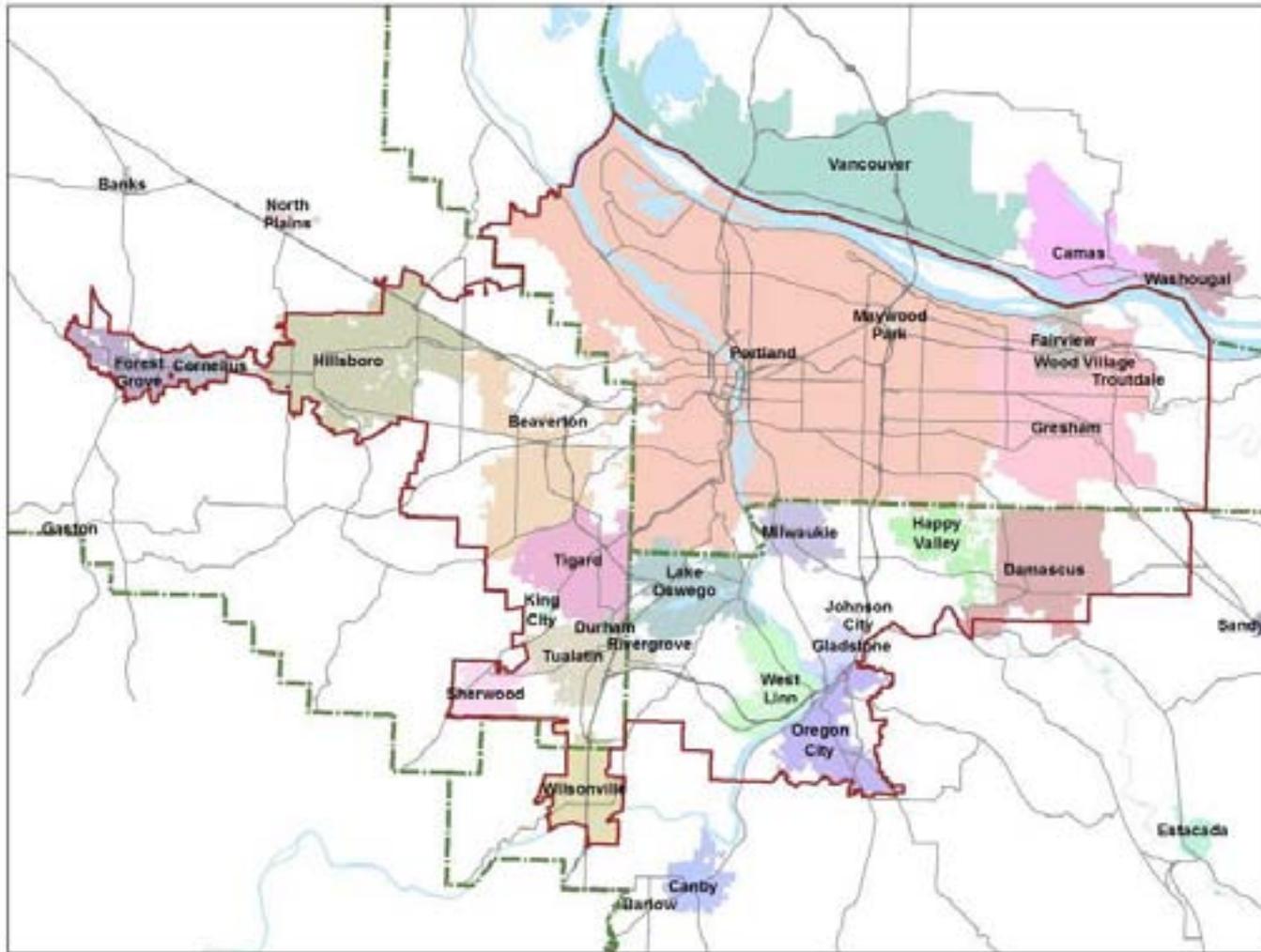
**October 2010**



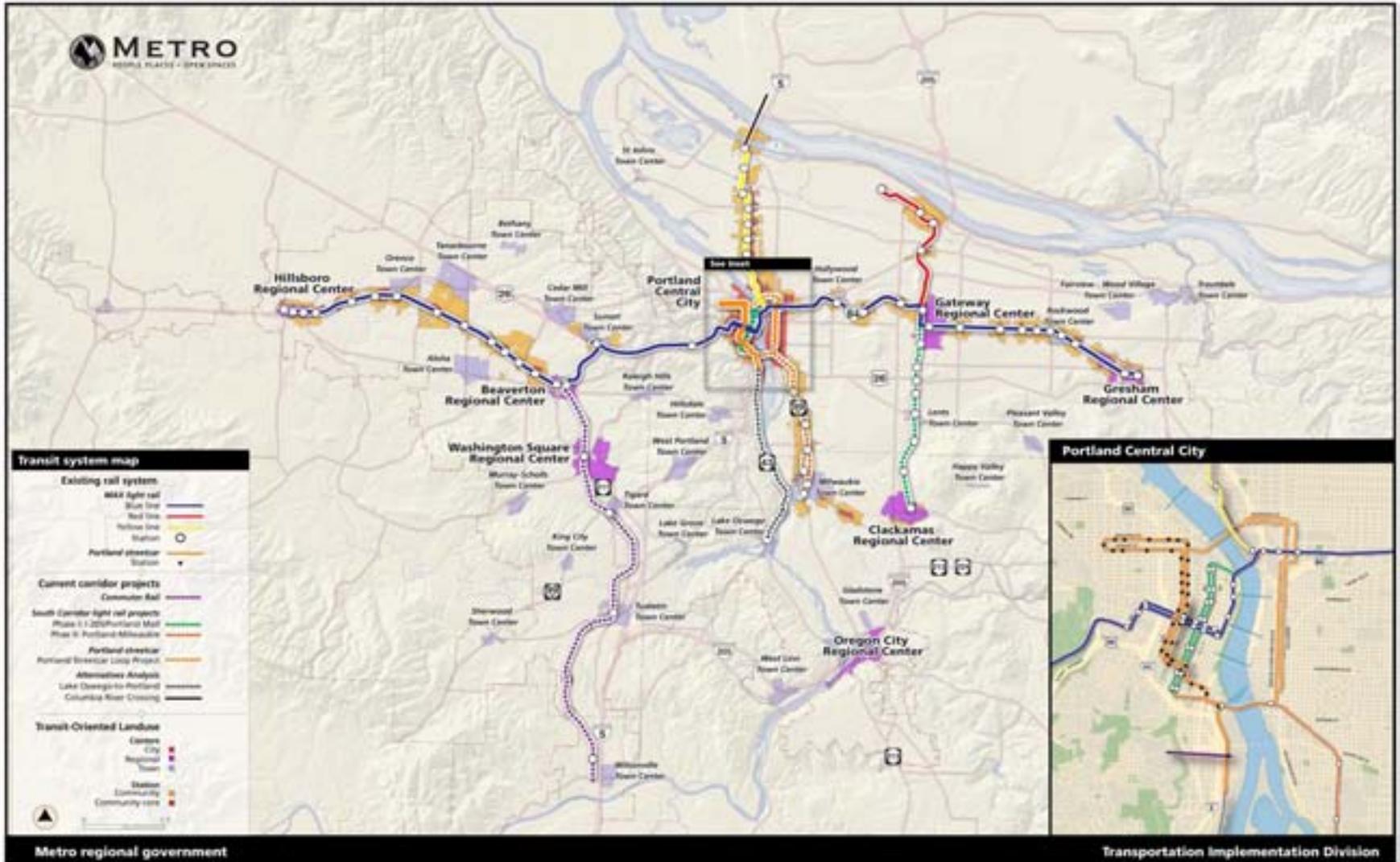
# Portland, Oregon



# Metro Government Jurisdictions



# The MAX system



# History gives lessons to follow

- Portland rejects freeway expansion projects in the 1970s
- MAX light rail system begins service to Gresham in 1986
- Westside line begins service in 1998



## A little more history

- OR & WA voters reject funding plan for bi-state 21 mile expansion of light rail system in 1998
- Growing congestion on I-5 between Portland and Vancouver
  - Affects neighborhood livability
  - Impacts trade economy
- Multi-modal, multi-party solutions begin to emerge



# CRC: A project of national significance

- Critical link between Canada and Mexico
- The only lift span bridge on I-5
- CRC is a national and regional priority
- Requires one-of-a-kind solution



# Critical I-5 problems

- Limited transit options
- Collisions
- Congestion
- Poor freight mobility
- Narrow bike/ped. path
- Earthquake risk



# Regional input identifies I-5 problems and solutions

- 2001-2002: 26-member I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership recommended:
  - Replace or supplement I-5 bridge
  - Extend light rail to Vancouver
  - Increase highway capacity near bridge
- 2005 – 2008: 39-member Task Force identified problems, narrowed solution ideas, developed evaluation criteria and recommended a preferred alternative

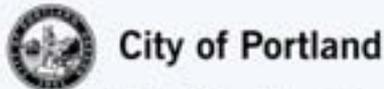


# Columbia River Crossing: A long-term, comprehensive solution

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



# Project Partners



# Project Sponsors Council

- Citizen Co-Chairs
  - Portland and Vancouver
- Cities
  - Portland and Vancouver
- Transit agencies
  - TriMet and C-TRAN
- Regional planning organizations
  - Metro and SW Washington Regional Transportation Council
- Departments of transportation
  - Oregon and Washington



## Spring 09: PSC recommends Mobility Council

- Reaffirmed support of LPA
- Consensus on innovative concept to manage system
  - Performance Measures
- Creation of Mobility Council concept to recommend:
  - Toll rate structure
  - Travel and auxiliary lane access and management
  - Applicable transit policies
  - TDM strategies
- Agreed to replacement bridge with 12 total lanes
- Tolling to fund construction and manage congestion

# The Winter Roadblock

- Congressional delegation asks for ways to reduce costs
- Hayden Island residents protest project plans
- Four PSC members representing Cities and MPOs call for more local control



# Finding a new way to conduct business

- Success requires cooperation at all levels
- Past light rail projects taught us:
  - Need a good project
  - Need political support
  - Build relationships and trust
- Six-month intensive effort begins...

# Integrated staff begin collaborative work

- Two citizens lead effort to forge consensus
- One member from each sponsor agency, plus two ports
- Fed them lunch
- Workplan established with aggressive timetable to answer key questions posed by PSC members
- New analyses conducted by Metro, Portland, Vancouver, CRC
- Weekly meetings, monthly workshops with PSC members
- Consensus recommendations delivered to PSC



# Stakeholders engaged

- Subcommittee of integrated staff, Hayden Island residents and others
- Met twice a week; facilitated by non-CRC staffer
- All ideas considered
- Concept #1, #2, A, B, C, D
- Three public hearings held in front of PSC citizen co-chairs



# Independent Review Panel

- National experts convened
- Reported to Governors
- Three public hearings; 6 open meetings
- Reaffirmed importance of moving ahead “at earliest possible date”
- Makes 30 recommendations – All accepted



# Unanimous agreement reached

- **Murray praises new agreement on I-5 bridge,**  
August 10, 2010, *The Columbian*.



Photo source: The Columbian

# Success requires cooperation at all levels

- Political leadership and will
- Technical know-how
- Community support and trust
- Financial partners
- Regulatory agencies

# Perseverance is a necessity

- Do relook at assumptions and answer questions
- More than one way to reach goal
- Good projects with good value will stand up to scrutiny

# Columbia River **CROSSING**

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