Partnerships: An essential component for success

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Rail-Volution
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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

Oregon Department of Transportation

Washington State Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

City of Vancouver

City of Portland

SW Washington Regional Transportation Council

Metro

C-TRAN

TriMet
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

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