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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brian Gard

711 SW Alder Street | Suite 400
Portland | Oregon 97205
T 503 552 5011
F 503 226 4854



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jack Coleman, 503-552-5011

info@crossingcoalition.com

Statement by Brian Gard, Executive Director, Columbia River Crossing Coalition

Portland, Ore. – August 05, 2010, 5:30 P.M. – In a joint statement today, Mayor Adams and Metro President Bragdon announced they support the joint recommendation developed collaboratively by the City of Portland, Metro, City of Vancouver, Clark County, C-Tran and TriMet, as well as the Ports of Portland and Vancouver, and with technical support from the CRC project staff. This recommendation calls for a crossing that can accommodate up to 10 lanes with a new design for a Hayden Island interchange. It will be voted on this coming Monday, August 9, by the CRC Project Sponsors Council (PSC).

The Coalition, which represents more than 200 businesses and organizations in Oregon and Washington, sees this as a tremendous sign of progress born out of the hard work of everyone involved over the past several months. This recent work has been especially productive because the PSC co-chairs, Henry Hewitt and Steve Horenstein, encouraged a collaborative and disciplined approach to work through key issues. While this recommendation is the work of many, as befits a project of this complexity and importance, special recognition must go to Mayor Adams and his staff for their highly productive contributions to the outcome.

It is essential to nurture this spirit of collaboration in order to keep the project moving forward. This project will create 27,000 much-needed jobs, and solve the serious economic, safety and environmental problems caused by the current overwhelmed I-5 bridge. As the recently released Independent Review Panel report noted, this is one of the most significant transportation projects underway in the nation, and it is imperative to build it at the earliest possible date.

Process sometimes gets in the way of progress; however, this collaborative process has created new progress. May it continue.

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 the paramount need for the Crossing and its important economic,

environmental and safety benefits. For more information on the Coalition, please visit www.crossingcoalition.com or call the Coalition at 503-552-5011.