The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, in partnership with the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation and local cities and counties, have begun the second phase of a study of alternatives for a new or improved Highway 35 Columbia River crossing. The first phase of this effort was completed last year, resulting in vision and mission statements for the study and these four possible alternative crossings:

- Stanley Rock: connecting Koberg State Park to Bingen Point
- Low Corridor: approximately the same alignment as the current bridge
- High Corridor: approximately the same alignment as the current bridge but at a much higher elevation; connecting from Button Junction to Jewett Boulevard (SR-141)
- West Hood River Interchange: connecting I-84 in Oregon to SR-14 in Washington

A consulting team led by Parsons-Brinckerhoff was recently hired to assist with the study. The study is organized into three tiers. Each tier will include the option to proceed to a more detailed evaluation or determine that a new crossing is not feasible.

The outcome of the study will be an improved understanding of the potential benefits and drawbacks of a new or improved crossing, short and long term recommendations for improvements, and an implementation and funding strategy.

**Some Key Issues**

The public will be asked to help identify the pertinent, high-priority issues as alternative designs for a new or improved crossing are studied. These factors have been identified to date:

- Visual impacts/ aesthetics
- River traffic/ navigation
- Tolls
- Bridge and traffic operations
- Safety
- Accommodating a variety of uses and alternative transportation options
- Endangered Species Act and other environmental issues
- Maintenance and operation
- Connections to I-84 and SR-14
- Effects on the local and regional economy
- Cost and financing
- Commercial needs
- Location
The SR-35 Columbia River crossing serves communities in Oregon and Washington in many ways. It helps connect people to their jobs, friends, recreational, shopping and other activities. It provides a vital transportation link for businesses on both sides of the river to send and receive their products and materials. Not only how it functions, but its appearance is very important. The public’s participation in reviewing and refining crossing alternatives is essential. Please plan to:

- Attend community meetings and open houses
- Request presentations to your neighborhood, business and civic groups
- Complete questionnaires such as one attached to this brochure
- Engage in projects that involve school children
- View displays in community buildings in Bingen, Hood River and White Salmon

As a first step in helping identify and prioritize study issues, please fill out, detach, fold and mail the questionnaire on the following pages, or go to the project Web site at: www rtc wa gov/ studies/ sr35 and complete the online questionnaire.

The first in a series of public events to discuss issues and possible impacts of this project will be held on:

**Thursday, October 12, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hood River Inn River View Room**

The Inn is located on the Columbia River at the south end of the Hood River Bridge, adjacent to exit 64, off I-84.

**For More Information**

To find out more about the study, please contact

Dale Robins, Project Manager
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
1351 Officers Row
Vancouver WA 98661
Phone: 360-397-6067
Fax: 360-696-1847
E-mail: sr35@rtc.wa.gov

Web site address: www rtc wa gov/studies/sr35
1. Tell us about yourself.

Where do you Live?  
- Bingen  
- White Salmon  
- Hood River  
- Other (please specify)  

Where do you Work?  
- Bingen  
- White Salmon  
- Hood River  
- Other (please specify)  

About how often do you use the bridge between Hood River and White Salmon?  
- Everyday  
- Few times a week  
- Once a week  
- Few times a month  
- Once a month  
- Less than once a month

2. To date, the public has identified the following key issues associated with a new or improved crossing. Please rank their importance on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 most important and 5 least important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Most Important</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Least Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative transportation opportunities (e.g., walking or biking)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial needs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River traffic/navigation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental impacts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual impacts/aesthetics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy of current bridge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections to adjacent highways (I-84 and SR-14)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost and financing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolls</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic impacts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other (please specify)  

3. Which of the following financing methods should be explored to pay for a new crossing? Please check all that apply.

- State gas tax revenues  
- Federal gas tax revenues  
- Local (city and county) road & bridge maintenance funds  
- State and federal grants  
- Toll revenues  
- Development charges or impact fees  
- Local option gasoline tax  
- Other (please specify)  

Other (please specify)  

___________________________________

___________________________________
4. What are the best ways to inform and involve the public in this study? (Rank 1, 2, 3)
   ____ Direct mailings
   ____ General public meetings or open houses
   ____ Displays in public buildings or commercial businesses
   ____ Presentations to business, neighborhood or other civic groups
   ____ World Wide Web page
   ____ Newspaper or television advertising
   ____ Other (please specify) ________________________________

5. Do you have any other comments?

Please provide your name and address below if you would like to receive additional information about the study and future opportunities to comment, or log on to the Web site at: www.rtc.wa.gov/studies.sr35.

Name ______________________________ Phone ___________ Fax ______________
Organization/Title ______________________ E-Mail ___________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______________ Zip _______________

Dale Robins, Project Manager
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