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Bi-State I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Task Force Releases Final Recommendations

PORTLAND – After 18 months of painstaking effort, the Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Task Force released final recommendations on potential transportation improvements in the I-5 corridor between I-84 in Oregon and I-205 in Vancouver for public review. The Task Force released the finalized strategic plan at the close of a five-hour meeting on Tuesday, June 18.

The Task Force approved the strategic plan by a vote of 24 in favor and one opposed. The motion to pass the final recommendations was made jointly by Mayors Vera Katz and Royce Pollard and seconded by Commissioners Craig Pridemore and Serena Cruz.

Final recommendations include:

- Three through-lanes in each direction on I-5, including southbound through Delta Park.
- A phased light rail loop in Clark County in the vicinity of the I-5, SR500/4th Plain and I-205 corridors.
- An additional span or a replacement bridge for the I-5 crossing of the Columbia River, with up to 2 additional lanes for merging and 2 light rail tracks.
- Interchange improvements and additional merging lanes where needed between SR500 in Vancouver and Columbia Boulevard in Portland. These include a full interchange at Columbia Boulevard.
- Capacity improvements for freight rail.
- Bi-state coordination of land use and management of our transportation system to reduce demand on the freeway and to protect the corridor investments.
- Involving communities along the corridor to ensure that the final project outcomes are equitable.

The strategic plan now will be sent to the Oregon Transportation Commission, the Washington State Department of Transportation and to the metropolitan planning organizations in Portland and SW Washington for review and potential adoption into their transportation plans. The next step after adoption into the regional transportation plans would be an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of which additional public involvement and Environmental Justice efforts would be key components.

The Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership was a bi-state planning project managed by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation. Designed to respond to concerns about growing congestion in I-5 between Portland and Vancouver, the project brought together citizens and leaders from both states to develop a strategic plan for the corridor. The 26-member Task Force, convened by Governors Gary Locke and John Kitzhaber, was made up of business, elected and community representatives. For more information, please visit the study's web site at www.I-5partnership.com.

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