



PORTLAND-MILWAUKIE
LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

November 24, 2009

Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Fred Hansen, Chair and
Members of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project Steering Committee

Dear Steering Committee members:

This letter is a follow-up to our June 18, 2009 recommendations about the Willamette River Bridge, following additional information provided by project staff.

The CAC supports:

- A four-pier cable-stayed bridge type, which stays within the project budget, functions well for all modes (light rail, streetcar, buses, bikes and pedestrians) and complements both its immediate surroundings and the vision for a complete system between Park Avenue and downtown Portland.
- A 14-foot bicycle and pedestrian path on the outer edge of each side of the bridge, which maximizes cycling and walking facilities without endangering the overall budget.
- A vertical clearance which maximizes access for both river users and bridge users, without endangering ADA requirements, the project budget, or potential future landside development.

We understand that additional design work will continue and welcome the opportunity for further input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Williams
Chair, Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project
Citizens Advisory Committee

Questions from CAC members

- More info on climate change studies cited?
- How to resolve conflicts among contradictory research?
- How to resolve conflicts among needs of river users and bridge users?
- Effects of vertical clearance on slope of pedestrian path?
- Cost per foot of higher vertical clearance that maintains appropriate pedestrian slope? Documentation?
- Delay in project schedule due to lack of consensus? Increased cost due to delay?
- Delay decisions about vertical clearance until study is published?
- Convene a team of technical experts to review study?
- Definition of "reasonable?"
- Impact of private dam removal on river levels?
- Distance upriver to next bridge with lower clearance?
- Could City of Portland allow fueling and maintenance at Salmon Springs when river levels prevent access to docks upriver from bridge?
- Other ways to mitigate impacts of bridge clearance for river users?
- Other policies affecting river users that should be updated in connection with a decision on the bridge's clearance?
- Status of Portland Spirit's plans for taller vessels?
- Does Portland Spirit operate during flood conditions?
- Analysis of other vessels affected?
- OMSI and Portland Opera desire continued involvement in discussions about bike and pedestrian connections to bridge.