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## **Bi-State I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Task Force Releases Final Draft Recommendations for Public Review**

VANCOUVER – After nearly 18 months of painstaking effort, the Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Task Force released final draft 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 final draft recommendations at the close of a five-hour meeting on Tuesday, May 21.

Final draft 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, SR500/4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Earlier in the year (January 29, 2002), the Task Force adopted Working Draft Recommendations and authorized additional work to gain a better understanding of the benefits and impact of potential highway and transit improvements between SR500 in Vancouver and Columbia Boulevard in Portland and to develop additional working draft recommendations on land use, environmental justice, transportation demand management, heavy rail, commuter rail and financing options. The working draft recommendations and the results of this additional work were reviewed by the public during two open houses in May. During the May 21 meeting and before adopting the final draft recommendations, the Task Force heard presentations on heavy rail and commuter rail and reviewed comments from the May open houses.

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the final draft recommendations at two open houses on June 10 and 12. The Task Force will adopt the final recommendations at a meeting on June 18.

### **Washington Open House**

Monday, June 10, 2002

4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Jim Parsley Center (formerly Bagley Center)

2901 Falk Road in Vancouver

### **Oregon Open House**

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Kaiser Town Hall

3704 N. Interstate Avenue in Portland

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Final Draft Recommendations for Public Review

The Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership is 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 brings together citizens and leaders from both states to develop a strategic plan for the corridor. The 28-member Task Force, convened by Governors Gary Locke and John Kitzhaber, is made up of business, elected and community representatives. For more information, please visit the study's web site at [www.I-5partnership.com](http://www.I-5partnership.com).

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