

Cost Estimates

Project Overview

The Columbia River Crossing project is a bridge, transit and highway improvement project for I-5 between SR 500 in Vancouver and Columbia Boulevard in Portland. The project team is currently analyzing five alternatives as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The goal of the Draft EIS is to identify the best performing solution with the fewest community impacts.

The five alternatives:

- No build (included for comparison purposes)
- Replacement bridge with bus rapid transit
- Replacement bridge with light rail
- Supplemental bridge with bus rapid transit
- Supplemental bridge with light rail

Summary of Cost Estimates

The total preliminary capital cost estimate for the four project “build” alternatives fall within a range of \$3.1 billion to \$4.2 billion in year of expenditure dollars. (Year of expenditure assumes that construction would take place between 2010 and 2017.)

Cost Breakdown by Component

Total I-5 Highway Related Costs (includes river crossing and interchanges)

Replacement	\$2.67 to \$3.09 billion
Supplemental	\$2.51 to \$2.88 billion

High Capacity Transit (includes all possible alignments and lengths)

Bus rapid transit	\$0.46 to \$0.99 billion
Light rail	\$0.53 to \$1.17 billion

The high capacity transit cost ranges reflect variations in length and alignment. Two alignments are being studied for Vancouver, both with short and long segments.

The estimate does not include operating and maintenance costs. The ultimate cost and time to complete a project is subject to many variables that cannot all be known before hand, like inflation, demand for materials or labor, and the availability of funding. The range is determined through a risk based analysis that estimates the probability that actual construction costs will fall somewhere within the range.

Next Steps

Spring 2008: Draft EIS released. Begin 60-day public comment period.

Summer 2008: Sponsoring agencies consider adoption of Locally Preferred Alternative.

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