

Greetings:

It was most encouraging to hear amazingly positive comments, at last Thursday's CLC meeting, on the need for rail transit and for the E&N to be included in an "overall" Regional transit planning process.

That same day, I received an email from Gerald Fox, P.Eng., of Portland, who sent me notice of what Portland is planning. The link in his email is - <http://trimet.org/tip/index.htm>

Item 2 of that linked PDF reads -

Expand high-capacity transit:

*Invest in light rail, commuter rail
and streetcar service
along key corridors
to connect regional centers.*

Surely, that should be ringing bells here!

To the Portland folks, "high capacity" means rail and that's EXACTLY what was being called for in Thursday's CLC meeting.

High capacity is needed though View Royal, as illustrated in ITO's map, which shows a West Region and an East Region, divided by a "pinch point" containing two highways and two rail rights-of-way.

All four of these "ways" are in "public hands". How fortunate we are - land does not have to be purchased to improve Regional transportation!

Why should there be any question about the wisdom and experience of Portland if we truly wish to have effective transportation through this narrow corridor?

Why the E&N route?

- Δ "Rail gets through on-time no matter what the weather or traffic conditions"
- Δ DND employees need it, saving them from having to deal with highway hassle
- Δ the tracks are in place and available - now - for use during this time of road construction in View Royal
- Δ ITO's surveys show that people want the option of rail transportation
- Δ for a relatively low cost, and in short order, rail transportation can -
 - be introduced into this Region
 - demonstrate rail's comfort and reliability
- Δ five communities along the line want the E&N to be in use; their concerns should be respected

Why Rail transit on the Douglas corridor?

- Δ it will serve as a starter for the Peninsula line and the Westshore-to-Uptown line
- Δ rail vehicles require less width-of-way
- Δ rail vehicles do not "wander"
- Δ other comments by a P.Eng. attached.

I pray that the VRRT group, MoTH and the Region's elected will pay heed to the success of rail transportation in Portland (who use "a lot of buses"!).

The experience of Portland city can be heard first-hand at the RailVolution conference, October 18 to 21 in Portland.

http://www.railvolution.com/docs/2010_brochure.pdf

Thanks,
Dick