



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. What is an Environmental Impact Statement?**

A. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is part of a federally mandated process to determine what actions, if any, will best serve a community's transportation needs.

### **Q. Why is this EIS necessary?**

A. The need for a major highway project must be assessed before it is undertaken. Then its broad social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits must be weighed to determine whether the project makes sense.

### **Q. What is the purpose of this study?**

A. The study will evaluate solutions for current and future (2030) transportation issues in the study area. These issues include safety, congestion, roadway capacity, roadway deficiencies, transportation system linkages, and multi-modal forms of transportation.

### **Q. What else will happen during the study?**

A. If the East Columbia EIS shows that transportation improvements are needed to enhance safety, decrease congestion, and support regional economic development, then a location study will begin. The location study will help determine what specific transportation solutions are needed and their impact to the community.

### **Q. How will my input be used in the process?**

A. Study recommendations come from technical analysis combined with public insights and preferences. Solutions are developed that balance community needs with technical and regulatory constraints (such as cost, feasibility and environmental protection).

### **Q. What happens after today's meeting?**

A. The study team will compare alternatives based on which ones best meet study objectives and are least disruptive to the environment and community. You can provide feedback about the alternatives at today's meeting and through the web site and emails to the project team. In 2007, a preferred alternative will be presented in a Draft EIS, which will be shared with the community at a summer Location Public Hearing and through the web site and project communications.

### **Q. How can I keep updated on the study?**

- Visit the project web site at [www.EastColumbiaEIS.com](http://www.EastColumbiaEIS.com);
- Sign up for electronic updates by sending an email with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to [EastColumbiaEIS@dofcpr.com](mailto:EastColumbiaEIS@dofcpr.com); or
- Call 1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636) for more information.