

### **Anyone remember Interstate Highway 605?**

Interstate Highway 605, a plan that both the Washington and Oregon State Departments of Transportation considered less than 20 years ago, would have connected an interchange of Battle Ground Highway 502 and I-5 in Clark County with an interchange on I-5 and I-205 in Tualatin in Clackamas County, Ore. The West Bypass, as it was to be known, would also have made a connection with the Sunset Highway northwest of Hillsboro. In Clark County I-605 would have generally followed the Columbia River south, crossing the river either at Sauvies Island or Hayden Island.

With I-205, I-605 would have created a beltway around the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area. Not a bad idea for highway planners in 1988. Not a bad idea today, says **Vinton Erickson**, who brought the issue to the *Insider* recently.

**Robert Duvall**, writing a forum piece for the *Oregonian* on March 20, 1989, a little over 16 years ago, had this to say:

“Talk about economic development in the metropolitan area quickly narrows down to the basic issue: transportation. That subject for us is central, critical and challenging.

“Many major metropolitan areas in America, including a number with some of the nation’s best transit systems, have beltways that encircle them. The Washington, D.C., area, which boasts an outstanding, modern subway, is investigating a second beltway. Portland and Vancouver should join these cities and build a beltway.

“Actually, we need to build half a beltway. The other half—Interstate 205—is already done.”

Farmer Erickson, a native of Lake Shore and one of Clark County’s major developers, is a long-time promoter of better transportation opportunities in this regional metropolitan area. Relying for a long time on only a single bridge connecting Vancouver and Portland, Erickson’s farming business was frequently inconvenienced by delays in moving produce and equipment across the Interstate Bridge. Even with the I-205 bridge, Erickson and other businesspersons on the west side are plagued with costly delays.

Removing traffic from I-5 within the central business areas of Vancouver and Portland would have positive economic benefits and would reduce the concentration of air pollution from autos in congestion, proponents of I-605 reasoned. For Clark County residents, I-605 would make the trip to the Oregon coast much faster.

“This is not an argument for a third bridge,” Duvall said in 1989, “which is clearly a red flag now.”

The argument for a third bridge was not then a one-way red flag. Meetings were held in Clark and Washington Counties where the idea of I-605 as a third bridge had nearly equal numbers of proponents and opponents.

Duvall concluded: “A beltway would be a boon for economic development in northwest Portland, Columbia County and Yamhill County, as well as areas along the route of I-205 in Clackamas a, East Multnomah and Clark Counties, which already have seen the power of a major new freeway. The beltway would open untapped industrial potential along all of U.S. 30, perhaps even into Clatsop County. It would also be a plus for tourism on the coast, in Yamhill County and in Washington County.”

From 1983 to 1995 Duvall was president of Pacific University in Forest Grove, a member of the Oregon Transportation Commission and had served as chairman of the board of directors of the Tualatin Valley Economic Development Corp.

### **Comcast.net having server problems in Clark County**

Over the past three days Comcast.net has been delivering sporadic Internet service to customers in the Clark County area. While service does not seem to have shut down for long periods of time, it has otherwise been slow.

No explanations have been offered nor have Comcast.net service people been able to predict when the trouble will be over.

### **Live! At the Garden! brings music and dance to downtown Thursday**

Dancing and music will be presented from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, in the Sculpture Garden at 9th Street and Broadway, under the sponsorship of the Community Foundation’s Live! At the Garden! series in conjunction with the city’s First Thursday Art Walk.

The **United We Sing** tour group from the **Christian Youth Theatre** will be performing. The event is free.

Food and drink are available at participating downtown venues.

**News brief**

Running for his 6th term as mayor of America's Vancouver, Mayor **Royce Pollard** is having a fund raising event from 5 to 7 p.m. today in the American Legion 40 et 8 Chateau, 7607 NE 26th Avenue. **Gary Wallesen** will provide live music. For further information, call **Jim Justin, 823-5114**, or **Bob Axlund, 574-3827**. ↗ The maximum study area map for the Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan is available from the Clark County Community Development Department on the 3rd floor of the Public Service Center, or by clicking on <http://www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/index.html>. Yesterday the *Insider* misspelled the Internet address.

**Calendar**

Beaches Summertime Cruisin' is 4 to 9 p.m. today at the Portland International Raceway. Adult admission is \$5. ↗ The Vancouver-Clark Telecommunications Commission meets in regular session at 6:30 p.m. this evening in a new location for this meeting only, in the 6th floor commissioner's hearing room in the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street.

**Wednesday headlines from at home and around the world:**

- [After ten years on river patrol, a deputy delivers good news--Columbian, \*\*Thomas Ryll\*\*](#)
- [Battle Ground School District will ask voters fir \\$20.4 million in bonds at the September 20 primary election to build a high school at Amboy--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)
- [Controversial HOV lane experiment north of Vancouver over; lane will be open to all vehicles Monday--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)
- [40 carnival rides, 50 food vendors, 15,772 exhibitors await opening of ten-day Clark County Fair Friday--Oregonian, \*\*Holley Gilbert\*\*](#)
- [County will forgo election on lodging tax increase this year--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)
- [Gasoline prices hit record high, \\$2.50 a gallon, in Seattle--Seattle P-I, \*\*Candace Heckman\*\*](#)
- [Heat wave hits metro area--KGW-TV, \*\*Antonia Giedwoyn\*\*](#)
- [14 more marines killed today in western Iraq--USA TODAY, \*\*AP\*\*](#)
- [Discovery repairs go smoothly--Washington Post, \*\*Guy Gugliotta\*\*](#)

**Wednesday on the air**

- Seattle Mariners at Detroit (live)—4 p.m. FSN, KFX**
- City Minutes (7/31)—5:30 p.m. CVTV
- Clark County Focus (7/29)—6:30 p.m. CVTV
- Telecommunications Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV**
- U.S. Open Cup: San Jose at Portland Timbers (live)—7 p.m. KZNY, KXMG**
- Vancouver Business Journal Top Construction Awards—10 p.m. CVTV
- Clark County Close Up (7/3)—11 p.m. CVTV

**Town Tabloids and the weather**

**Qui Thac Nguyen** getting good marks. ↗ **Bob Lawson** correcting web address for maps. ↗ **Ed Geiger** this time getting supporting role. ↗ **Ken Haydock** revitalizing litany ↗ **Allison Shultz** passing along really good news. ↗ **Wednesday**, feels like it will be hot, 96. **Thursday**, could be even hotter, 99. **Friday**, having a heat wave, 95.