

Comments About Microsoft Bridge to Somewhere



- Tax payers won't want to have to pay for an unnecessary bridge to be built especially when Microsoft can afford it, so they are basically just ripping off the government at the tax-payers' expense.
- When Bill Gates wrote his book "The Road Ahead" nearly fifteen years ago, he indicated that his personal goal was to continue to "stay ahead of the curve." I think that he is lacking in a commitment to the public well-being by acquiescing to stimulus money being used for this project. That seems like old-fashioned self-centered thinking. And while we're at it, it's clear that the foundation that he and his wife Melinda head is doing very worthwhile work, but it is a shame that they don't accept unsolicited proposals. That really shuts out potentially good ideas.
- It's their bridge not ours
- Microsoft should make an example of itself to the American people and use its own money to build the bridge; or set an example not waste money on something that isn't all the important to the future of Microsoft.

Taunya Hilfrink (Civitas Senior Pacific Northwest Correspondent based in Bellevue, WA):

- I of course have a biased opinion about the bridge since I work in Bellevue and it will have an impact on me. That said, while the bridge does connect 2 Microsoft campuses, it

is not strictly a Microsoft bridge. Microsoft is currently adding 4,000+ offices in 5 new buildings to an already crowded infrastructure. The influx of all the office space and people certainly helps the area and employees, including all the money being spent on the new construction. The current roads are already overcrowded and I just don't see how they can handle the additional people. Currently as I sit in traffic in the area I can clearly identify the Microsoft employees by the yellow parking permits hanging from rearview mirrors. The cars around me without the yellow tags are stuck in the same traffic. In addition to Microsoft, there are other businesses and large residential areas nearby. The bridge will reduce traffic on all the surrounding roads giving improvement to everyone who lives in or drives through the area. The stimulus package aims to provide projects that will put people back to work and this project certainly provides that, with benefits that extend beyond simply Microsoft.

I think it is important to take a moment and think about the impact Microsoft has beyond just thinking of them as a large company with a lot of money. Microsoft evangelizes and supports employee charitable and volunteer contributions to the non-profit organizations that they are passionate about, which has a huge impact on communities around the globe. In 2008 Microsoft employees raised \$87.7 million for nonprofit organizations. This goal was reached through employee donations and the Microsoft corporate match. In addition to matching employee cash donations, Microsoft will donate \$17 per hour for every employee volunteer hour. All of this is without even considering the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.