

I-5 Willamette River Bridge - Environmental Assessment

OPEN HOUSE

May 3, 2007

WELCOME!

This slide show takes about 3 minutes and will give you valuable background information about the project and the purpose of today's meeting.

The Project

- ODOT is conducting an environmental review process for replacing the I-5 bridge over the Willamette River between Eugene and Springfield.
- The environmental review is assessing the possible environmental impacts of constructing a new bridge, removal of the existing bridges and the associated road improvements.

Project Area



Why Replace the Bridge?

- Built in 1962, the bridge has structural problems and cannot be cost-effectively repaired or widened to carry future traffic loads.
- ODOT constructed a temporary bridge in 2004 to accommodate traffic until a new bridge could be designed and built.



Why Replace the Bridge?

- The existing bridge is in poor structural condition and has been decommissioned.
- The temporary bridge is not designed to withstand earthquakes and does not meet federal standards for permanent interstate bridges.



Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and maintain connectivity and mobility for all users of I-5 crossing the Willamette River in the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Area.



Funding

- The project is funded at \$180 million:
 - \$14 million for preliminary engineering and design
 - \$1 million for right-of-way acquisition
 - \$165 million for construction.
 - Actual project cost will be determined by alignment and bridge design selection.
- Funding is provided by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act and Federal SAFETEA-LU, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users earmark funds.

What Is OTIA?

The Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) is the state's 10-year, \$3 billion program to repair or replace hundreds of bridges, pave and maintain city and county roads, improve and expand interchanges, add new capacity to Oregon's highway system, and remove freight bottlenecks statewide.



Project Steps



Project Update

- In 2006, community and technical issues were gathered to refine the scope of the project.
- We began an environmental review process in January 2007 to assess the environmental impacts associated with the project.
- A Project Development Team (PDT) was formed and has met five times. The PDT includes ODOT, Lane County, the cities of Eugene and Springfield, and representatives from the Community Advisory Group
- A Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed and has met four times.

Community Advisory Group

- The Community Advisory Group (CAG), established earlier this year, includes representatives from local neighborhoods, recreation groups, Chambers of Commerce and the University of Oregon.
- The CAG has helped to develop overall project goals from the issues identified last year and new issues, and discussed aesthetic considerations of importance to the community.
- CAG meetings are open to the public and announced through the city websites and the *Register Guard*. Their next meeting is May 8 from 10am – 1pm at the Eugene Public Library.

Issues

A number of issues have been raised that will be addressed in this environmental review process. These include:



- How will the parks and natural habitat be impacted?

Issues

- How will the new bridge coordinate with the railroad and Franklin Boulevard?



Issues

- What will the new bridge look like from a variety of view points – including underneath?



These and other issues were used to develop the project Goals to ensure issues are addressed at all stages of the project. A complete list of issues and the Goals are available at this meeting.

We want to hear from You!

- At this stage in the process, we are most interested in hearing what you think about the range of bridge types and other design issues we should consider.
- Your input will help the CAG make a recommendation to the PDT regarding which bridge types to forward for further environmental impact analysis.
- Project staff, CAG members and PDT members are here today to talk with you.
- Fill out a comment form and leave it with us today!

For More Information Contact

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- Ann Sanders, Project Leader (541) 744-8080; ann.i.sanders@odot.state.or.us.

Visit the project web site:

www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION2/I-5WRB.shtml

Thanks!

- We appreciate you taking the time to find out more about the project and to give us your input.
- We will incorporate your feedback and report back to you the results on the project website, through the local media and through mailings.
- If you would like to receive project updates in the mail, be sure to put your name and contact information on the sign-in sheet.