

Stay safe on park paths and in river



Signs leaving the Knickerbocker Bridge heading north.

Kiosks located throughout the park show routes that are open or have temporary changes. Watch for flaggers to guide you safely around construction work.

As the weather warms up, more people are using the pedestrian paths and river near the Willamette River Bridge construction project. When you are in the area, keep safety in mind.

When floating the river, stay to the right for safe passage under the work bridge. Signs posted in the river point to the correct channel, and the safest point to pass under the work bridge is clearly marked.

Bicyclists using the Canoe Canal Path, Knickerbocker Bridge or south bank paths need to slow down and watch closely for other users. Expect occasional delays due to construction.

Tours

Tours of the I-5 Willamette River Bridge construction project can be arranged by contacting John Lively at john@cawood.com or calling (541) 484-7052. Tours are regularly scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Tours are limited to a maximum of 15 participants. Advance sign-up is required.

Contact for more information:

Rick Little, ODOT Public Information Officer, (541) 726-2442
John Lively, Construction Public Involvement Coordinator, (541) 484-7052

If you are not already on our mailing list, contact Nichole Hayward at (541) 484-7052 or email nichole@cawood.com. The newsletter is distributed electronically unless otherwise requested.

I-5 Willamette River Bridge Eugene & Springfield



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I-5 Willamette River Bridge Eugene & Springfield



Spring 2011

Southbound I-5 Willamette River Bridge to open ahead of schedule



The Oregon Department of Transportation will open the new southbound Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge two months ahead of schedule thanks to the construction team led by Hamilton Construction and a little help from a relatively mild winter.

Northbound and southbound traffic will start sharing the new bridge in September.

“Once we switch traffic, we’ll remove the temporary bridge and start building the new northbound bridge,” said Karl Wieseke, ODOT project manager. Since completing the arches for the new southbound bridge last winter, the ODOT project team has:

- Built steel supports and wooden falsework for the new bridge deck.
- Installed and tied miles of rebar for beams, decks and new concrete paving.
- Poured the majority of new bridge deck.
- Paved southbound lanes up to Canoe Canal Bridge and between Canoe Canal Bridge and the new southbound I-5 bridge.
- Post-tensioned the connecting bridge spans north and south of the main bridge over the river.
- Formed and poured bridge curbs and barriers.

A community event in August will celebrate the opening of the new southbound bridge. The celebration will be announced on our blog at www.willametteriverbridge.blogspot.com.

Willamette River Bridge nearing completion from north bank to over Franklin Boulevard on the south.



Finishing bridge deck and barriers, south end looking north.

For current project updates please visit www.willamettebridge.org and follow us on Twitter: @OregonDOT.



Completing framing of span 6 before deck pour.



Finishing work before pouring deck from middle of river to south bank.

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

Summer 2011:

- Complete southbound bridge deck and railing.
- Install center barrier and stripe lanes for southbound bridge.
- Make a temporary switch of all northbound and southbound traffic to new bridge.
- Begin demolition of temporary bridge.

Fall 2011:

- Finish removing temporary bridge.
- Build supports and falsework for construction of new northbound bridge.
- Begin work on new pedestrian path on south bank.

Winter 2012:

- Begin construction of new northbound bridge.

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Veneta second graders ready to tour the bridge.



Karl Wieseke, ODOT Project Manager, talks about project to Veneta second graders.

Kids experience bridge building first hand

Veneta Grade School second grade students, parents and teachers toured the Willamette River Bridge on Friday, May 20. Students commented about the size of the bridge, the fun of wearing the safety gear and how cool it was to be escorted through the project by the Hamilton traffic control supervisor with lights flashing. When asked what concrete is like coming out of the truck, one little girl said, "It is like pudding." These don't sound all that different from comments made by many of the adults who take the tour.

You and your group can arrange a tour by contacting John Lively at (541) 484-7052 or john@cawood.com.

Design enhancements chosen for installation near bridge

ODOT is moving forward with three teams for design enhancements to be installed adjacent to Interstate 5 north and south of the Willamette River Bridge.

The pieces include "River" by the Lillian Pitt Team, "Camas Basket" by rhiza A+D, and "Blue Camas Basket" by Devin Laurence Field.

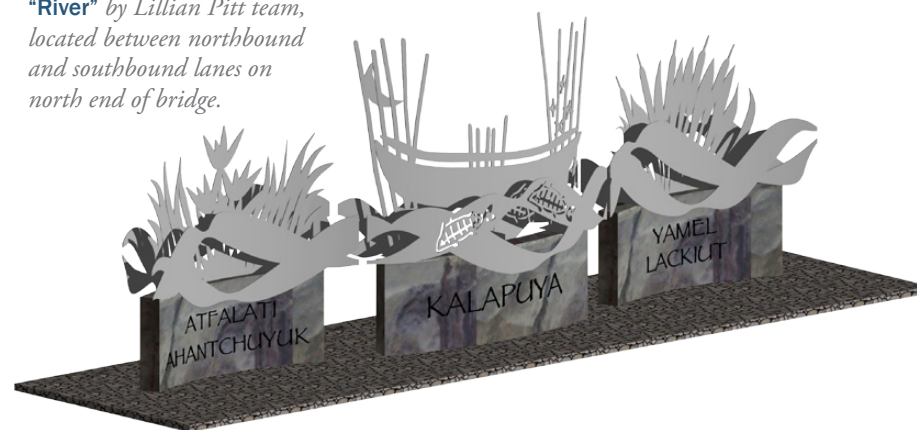
The three design concepts were recommended by stakeholder selection committees, the Community Advisory Group and the Project Development Team. Comments received at a public open house and online were considered in the final selection. David Lewis of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Esther Stutzman of the Kalapuya Tribe provided valuable input and confirmed that the designs show respect for and are representative of Native American culture in the valley.

The design teams will refine their proposals and prepare final works for installation in late 2013 or 2014 after bridge construction is complete.

Local stakeholders also are working with Litus LLC on final concepts for enhancements to be installed in the Whilamut Natural Area.

ODOT is working with stakeholders on interpretive displays for the south bank of the river, focused on The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the historic Eugene Millrace. Other design enhancements complementing the interpretive displays remain under consideration. Recommendations for final displays and enhancements on the south bank are expected later this year, with installation scheduled after the bridge work is complete.

"River" by Lillian Pitt team, located between northbound and southbound lanes on north end of bridge.



"Blue Camas Basket" by Devin Laurence Field, located south of Willamette River Bridge between I-5 northbound off-ramp to Franklin Boulevard and northbound lanes.



"Camas Basket" by rhiza A+D, located on east side of I-5 north of the bridge.

