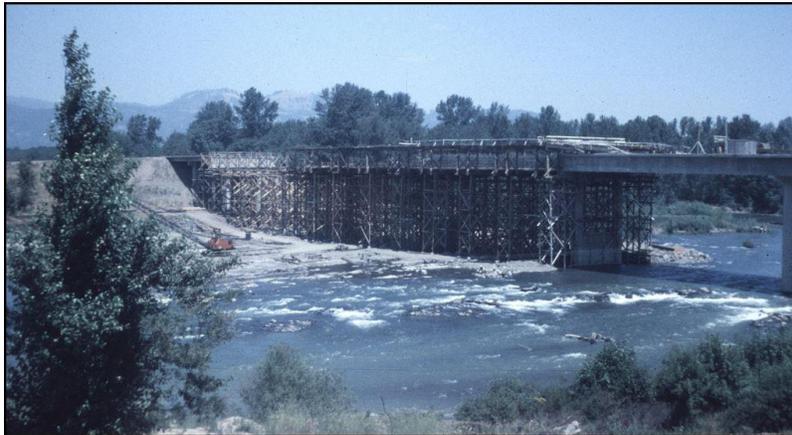


Flicker: I-5 Willamette River Bridge - Whilamut Passage Bridge Opening Celebration

Willamette River Bride Historic Photo of Construction of Original Bridge.



The north section of the original Interstate 5: Willamette River Bridge being built in 1961, completed in 1962 by the Oregon Department of Transportation. The Willamette River Bridge is located in Eugene, Oregon.

Willamette River Bride Historic Photo of Original Bridge.



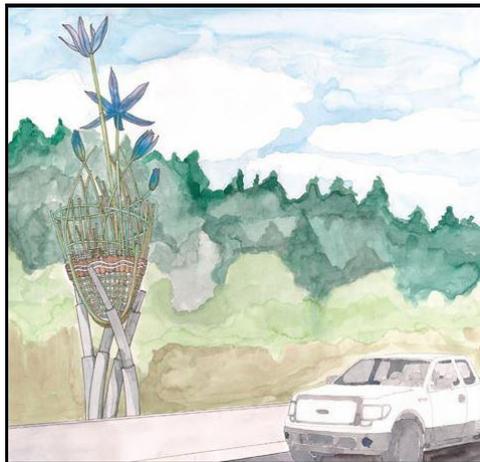
The original Interstate 5: Willamette River Bridge was completed in 1962 by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation. The Willamette River Bridge is located in Eugene, Oregon.

"Blue Camas Basket" by Devin Laurence Field LLC



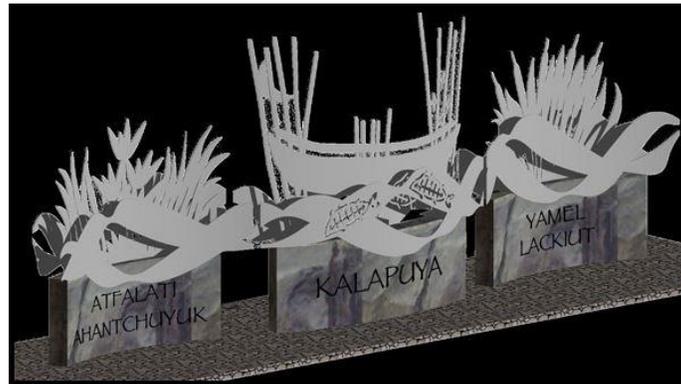
Thanks to federal grant money allocated for aesthetic enhancements, ODOT's new Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge will be graced with a cultural landmark. Design groups submitted proposals to enhance the areas around the bridge and reflect the legacy of the Kalapuya tribe, people who came to this area at least 10,000 years ago, according to archeological evidence, and were the first inhabitants of the Willamette Valley.

"Camas Basket" by rhiza A+D



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“River” by the Lillian Pitt Team



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Waving Hello



## Ready to Ride



More than 350 people rode their bikes to the bridge opening event.

## Whilamut Passage Bridge Visitor



This guy has been hanging out under the new bike/ped path viaduct at the Whilamut Passage Bridge in Eugene/Springfield.

On Our Way!



Under Then Up



Construction Manager



ODOT Construction Manager Karl Wieseke.



## A Kalapuya Welcome



Esther Stutzman leads her daughters in a Kalapuya welcome song.

## Up We Go!



Attendees were invited to climb to the top of the bridge.

## A Line to the Top



People lined up for a chance to climb to the top of the bridge.



WRB Crowd



A crowd walks along the newly-completed Willamette River Bridge on I-5.



## WRB New Bridge



A crowd walks along the newly-completed Willamette River Bridge on I-5.

## Community Members on the Bridge



Community members were given the opportunity for a once-in-a-lifetime walk across the northbound bridge before it opens to traffic. From atop the bridge, visitors were treated to fantastic views of the Willamette River and were able to admire one of the design enhancement sculptures up close.

## WRB Details



One of the construction crew points out details of the bridge to Rep. Peter DeFazio.

## WRB Celebration



Federal Highway Administrator Victor M. Mendez and ODOT Director Matthew Garrett (center) joined other officials on a tour of the new northbound Whilamut Passage Bridge on Interstate 5 in Eugene-Springfield.

Bikes on the Bridge



Onto the Bridge



The View From Here



Art Stop



## Admiring the Art



## Stopping by "The River"



On Aug. 3, the communities of Eugene and Springfield celebrated the opening of the Whilamut Passage Bridge. The event kicked off with a bike ride across the new northbound bridge for members of Kidical Mass Eugene, a group that promotes safe and fun bike rides for kids and their families. During the ride, participants posed in front of "River," one of the bridge's design enhancements that honors the Kalapuya tribe.

The View



Long Way Down



## Bike Corral



The bike corral filled, so cyclists locked their bikes to the fence.

## Kidical Mass



As part of the public opening, ODOT held a bike ride with Kidical Mass.

In the News



ODOT Region Manager Sonny Chickering does a stand up interview with local media.

A Family Affair



Kalapuya Elder Esther Stutzman and her two daughters

Douglas Beauchamp and Justin Cameron



Beauchamp was the art liaison for the project; Cameron is one of our contractors.

Safety is Priority No.1



ODOT's Transportation Safety Division was on hand to spread the safety word.

Staff



Staff in red shirts stood ready to help and answer questions.

On the Stand



Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg.

## The Audience



A large crowd assembled for the opening program.



## Addressing the Crowd



ODOT Region Manager Sonny Chickering addresses the crowd.

## Scott Wylie



Wylie spoke representing the Community Advisory Group and the Design Enhancement Steering Committee.

Advisory Group Members



Advisory group members Charlotte Behm, Chris Henry and David Sonnichsen.

Drummers



## Drumming



## Tribal Dedication



The ceremony included a moving performance by Kalapuya elder Esther Stutzman (standing, right) and her family, who closed the ceremony with two tribal songs. The bridge's name, Whilamut Passage, honors the Kalapuya people who first inhabited the area. Whilamut means "where the river ripples and runs fast."

David Lewis and Kevin Simmons



Opening Blessing



Kevin Simmons led the opening drumming and blessing.



Sonny Chickering



ODOT Region 2 Manager Sonny Chickering welcomes the crowd to the opening program.

Esther Stutzman



Kalapuya Elder Esther Stutzman makes remarks.

Dedication Ceremony



Speakers at the community celebration — emceed by ODOT Area Manager Frannie Brindle (standing) — included Oregon Rep. Nancy Nathanson, the mayors of Eugene and Springfield, and Kalapuya elder Esther Stutzman, among others. The ceremony commemorated the completion of the landmark bridge and honored the Eugene and Springfield communities for their involvement and support throughout the bridge's construction.

Presentation



ODOT Region Manager Sonny Chickering presents a photo of the bridge to Rep. Nancy Nathanson.

Whilamut Passage Bridge



The Interstate 5 Whilamut Passage Bridge is complete.