

YouTube Narratives

Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge Project Overview

Uploaded on Aug 10, 2009

An overview of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Willamette River Bridge project on Interstate 5 in Eugene.

Work under way on Willamette River Bridge

Uploaded on Jun 22, 2010

Work is under way on the new Willamette River Bridge. The new bridge is designed to complement its environment and should be complete in 2013. During construction, motorists and pathway users should watch for flaggers, detours and other changes.

Willamette River Bridge Public Service Announcement

Uploaded on Jun 22, 2010

While ODOT works on the bridge and pathways, cyclists and joggers should watch for flaggers. Remember, "Share the space — help us keep you safe!"

Take a tour of the Willamette River Bridge

Uploaded on May 23, 2011

The new Willamette River Bridge is going up fast along I-5 near Eugene and Springfield. Join us for a quick tour and info on how you can see it in person yourself.

Behind the orange cones: drilling the foundation for the I-5 Willamette River Bridge

Published on May 11, 2012

Rain or shine, crews are working hard to replace the Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge. Join the Oregon Department of Transportation as we go on site to meet the men and women who are working to make this graceful bridge take shape. In the first installment of an ongoing series, Jyll Smith interviews John Joslin, project manager for DBM Contractors, to see how his team drilled shafts to support the columns of the new north bound bridge. Shaft drilling is one of the first major tasks in building the bridge and involves a colossal drill rig with a giant auger that is 8 feet in diameter and 6 feet long.

I-5 Willamette River Bridge, Behind the Orange Cones: Ties to the Economy

Published on Jul 5, 2012

Because it's the largest bridge replacement in ODOT's history, this project affects a lot of people who live in and travel through Eugene and Springfield, Ore., on Interstate 5. Our second video shows how important the I-5 Willamette River Bridge replacement is to the local economy.

Jyll Smith, ODOT public information officer, spoke with David Hauser, president of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, to get his perspective of the project's importance to the business community because of the local jobs it has created and the extra money being spent by the crew members in the community.

We also show that businesses on Franklin Boulevard are easily accessible during the two-year closure of the I-5 northbound off-ramp using the simple and well-marked detour.

I-5 Willamette River Bridge, behind the orange cones: the skeleton of the bridge

Published on Sep 14, 2012

Watch crews tie together miles of rebar to form the intricate web of steel reinforcing bars that is the unseen skeleton of the entire bridge. The rebar ranges from as small as one-half inch in diameter up to 2 1/4 inches across.

For the Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge replacement, we use the largest diameter rebar available, which weighs 14 pounds per linear foot. These big steel bars are so heavy that it takes several steelworkers to move them into place and tie them into the reinforcing framework that supports the bridge piers and arches.

Jyll Smith, ODOT public information officer, spoke with the agency's Quality/Quantity Coordinator Thor Alvarado about the training and experience needed to work with this heavy and intricate material

I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project, behind the orange cones

Published on Nov 9, 2012

Leaving the area better than we found it

The parkland surrounding the Willamette River Bridge replacement project is much beloved by athletes, commuters and outdoor enthusiasts. These same park paths and natural areas also play a very important role in our construction story.

Jyll Smith, ODOT public information officer, explains that while construction has temporarily impacted Alton Baker Park and the Whilamut Natural Area, it will also lead to valuable improvements when the bridge work is done.

In this video you can see what construction crews are doing now and will accomplish in the future for this important parkland around the bridge. Improvements include stream restoration and a temporary fish ladder, informative kiosks and visual enhancements along the Canoe Canal path and waterway.

Whilamut Passage Bridge Naming Ceremony

Published on Dec 13, 2012

On Sept. 29, leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and community members joined the Oregon Department of Transportation to celebrate the naming of the Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge as the Whilamut Passage Bridge.

This video captures photos of the special day along with speeches by the tribe and other community members who played a significant role in naming the bridge.

The name Whilamut in the Kalapuya language means "where the river ripples and runs fast." The Kalapuya people, members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, were the first to live in this area. The Whilamut Passage theme incorporates words, phrases and images that encompass the variety of users of the bridge and its surroundings — past, present and future — as well as the area's geography.

I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project, behind the orange cones: Managing a massive project

Published on Jan 25, 2013

Watch interviews with project leaders building the state's largest bridge replacement that will carry Interstate 5 traffic over the Willamette River for the next 100 years. A considerable part of their work depends on strong relationships with employees, suppliers, subcontractors, governments, and the public. It's a lot to take on, yet they handle it with grace and humor.

Jyll Smith, ODOT public information officer, spoke with ODOT and Hamilton Construction managers about how they got there, what motivates them and the most challenging and rewarding aspects of their work.

I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project, behind the orange cones: The making of a cultural landmark

Published on Dec 9, 2013

"River," a 42-foot-long depiction in stainless steel of a river and canoe flanked by camas flowers and cattails, now stands atop the Whilmut Passage Bridge where Interstate 5 crosses the Willamette River in Eugene and Springfield.

This video takes you behind the scenes to see how it was created. You also hear from Lillian Pitt, the Native American artist who was inspired by her heritage as she designed the piece.

The fabricators featured in this video are IRC Aluminum & Stainless, KY-RO Inc. and Oregon Industrial Contractors Inc.