

**I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project
Park Outreach Talking Points
September 18 and 19, 2009**

Path detours

- North Walnut Road through the park will be closed to the public for the duration of the project. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be detoured to other paved routes.
- A new set of detours will take effect as early as Monday, Sept. 28. (*The handout map shows these detours.*)
- Eight temporary kiosks show current detours (*these are also shown on the handout map*). Detours will be well marked. Flaggers will control path closures and keep bicyclists, walkers and runners safely away from construction work.
- While east/west path access will always be maintained, path users will experience intermittent path closures and delays throughout construction.
- Bicyclists and pedestrians on the south bank will use the existing paved detour path for the remainder of construction.
- Bicyclists are subject to the same rules as other vehicles, including doubling of fines in construction zones for not obeying a flagger or riding on a road or path that is closed. Closures and delays are necessary to protect the safety of people using the paths, as well as construction.

Environmental considerations

- ODOT will restore occupied areas, repave utilized paths and make improvements to the park upon completion of the bridge replacement. Crews will replace every tree that is cleared for construction with at least two native trees. ODOT will then monitor new plantings for five years.
- As a part of the project, crews will rehabilitate a nearby wetland, replant a staging area to enhance habitat and provide fish passage mitigation by realigning a stream that is currently flowing through an undersized culvert.
- Contractors are utilizing innovative sound barrier methods to protect fish from the harmful noise of pile driving.
- Contractors are currently building a work bridge and containment system to allow for work under the new bridge while protecting the Willamette River.
- ODOT's design team will continue working with the community over the next year to design aesthetic elements for the park, the southbank interpretive center, and the bridge deck.

Construction overview

- Through the fall, contractors will demolish the decommissioned bridge and widen the southbound on-ramp from Franklin Boulevard.
- Throughout the project, drivers will see minimal impacts on I-5 and occasional closures to Franklin Boulevard and its on- and off-ramps.

- Completion is scheduled for December 2012.
- The contractor team is lead by Hamilton Construction Company of Springfield and Slayden Construction Group of Stayton.
- The project is funded at \$40 million for design and \$147 million for construction.

Project need

- Bridge inspection showed cracked beams supporting the bridge. Traffic was diverted to temporary structure built in 2004.
- The temporary bridge is as an interim solution to keep I-5 open until a new bridge could be built. It was constructed using materials and methods that can be installed quickly, but that do not meet environmental or design standards for permanent interstate bridges.

For the latest information:

- Visit the project Web site at www.Willamettebridge.org
- Follow us on Twitter. Our user name is [OregonDOT](#).
- Please also visit www.Keepusmoving.com for the latest information on path detours.
- Contact Rick Little, ODOT Public Information Officer, (541) 726-2442;
Richard.Little@odot.state.or.us
or Suzanne Roberts, Public Involvement Coordinator, (503) 471-6866;
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