

I-5 Willamette River Bridge

Eugene & Springfield

Summary of Open Houses • February 9, 2009

Summary

Two public open houses for the Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge Project were held on Monday, February 9, 2009 in Springfield and Eugene. The purpose of the open houses was to:

- Share current information about the overall project;
- View new images of the proposed deck arch bridge;
- Provide information about the proposed theme, Whilamut Passage;
- Request and share information about the existing Eugene millrace; and
- Request feedback on which design elements are most important to citizens in the region.



The Springfield open house was held at the Springfield Library Meeting Room and the Eugene open house was held at the Eugene Public Library Tykeson-Bascom rooms.

Attendance

Representatives from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the design and construction teams attended the open houses to answer questions. These representatives included the following:

Megan Banks, LCOG	Jamie Damon, JLA
Larry Fox, OBEC	John Ferguson, TYLin
Andy Howe, OBEC	Tom Metcalf, OBEC
Kevin Parrish, Hamilton	Suzanne Roberts, OBDP
Kalin Schmoldt, JLA	Jyll Smith, ODOT
Steve Turner, ODOT	Dick Upton, ODOT



Various members of the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) and Project Development Team (PDT) also attended the open houses.

Nearly 60 people attended the open house in Springfield and nearly 80 people attended the open house in Eugene.

Notification and Publicity

The open houses were advertised by the following methods:

NEWSLETTER

- A four-page color newsletter was mailed to approximately 1,100 agencies, organizations, and individuals on the interested parties list with the open house dates, locations and topics (Appendix A).

E-MAIL

- Sent to approximately 700 people on the project interested parties list (see Appendix B).

NEWSPAPER DISPLAY ADS (APPENDIX C)

- The Register-Guard on February 2 in Section A, February 5 in the City-Region Section, February 5 in the Springfield Extra Section and February 7 in the City-Region Section.
- Eugene Weekly on February 5.
- University of Oregon Oregon Daily Emerald on February 3.
- Lane Community College Torch on February 3.

PRESS RELEASES, NOTICES

- Community Calendar section of The Register-Guard on February 4.
- Press release issued on January 16.
- Eugene City Council newsletter published on February 4.

ON-LINE

- Notice posted on the project Web site (www.willamettebridge.org).
- Notice posted on Springfield and Eugene city Web sites on February 3 and 4.
- Display ad on The Register-Guard Web site on February 5.

POSTERS

- Distributed to 108 sites in the area on January 29 (Appendix D).



Meeting Format

The format of the open houses was drop-in style. There were no formal presentations. A Powerpoint presentation about the project ran continuously outside the open house rooms, with chairs available for sitting. Project team members from a variety of disciplines were available throughout the open houses to explain the displays and answer questions.

Wall Displays

- Aerial photo with project boundaries, proposed bridge and on- and off-ramp locations.
- Renderings of the bridge from two vantage points.
- Aerial photo of the project area showing focused design areas.
- Millrace.
- Emerging Theme: Whilamut Passage.
- Project Schedule.
- Bike and pedestrian detour route.

Handouts (Appendix G)

- Copies of January 2009 newsletter.
- Past newsletters.
- January 2009 project fact sheet.
- Comment form.
- Project schedule.
- Millrace (display reduced to 8-1/2"x11)
- Emerging Theme: Whilamut Passage (display reduced to 8-1/2"x11).
- Aerial base with design elements focus areas.

Comments

A total of 23 comment forms were submitted at the event. A summary of comments is included in Appendix I.



Summary and Meeting Analysis

Based on attendance and comments received in writing and verbally, the open houses were successful. Because the Springfield open house was held during work hours (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) at a centrally located meeting room at Springfield City Hall, many attendees were city staff in a variety of departments. More Eugene area residents attended the evening open house in Eugene (4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.). Having diverse technical and resource staff was invaluable to the success of the open houses since questions ranged from the timing and phasing of construction to why no off-ramps to Franklin Boulevard.

An area with tables and chairs for discussing and filling out comment forms was provided at both locations and frequently used. The flip chart and easel were used very little—only one comment was written.