



I-5
Willamette River
Bridge
Eugene & Springfield



GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

August 11, 2009

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.





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Thank you for attending the groundbreaking for the Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge replacement project.

After three years of planning and coordination, we are honored to celebrate the official start of construction.

This project involves more than building a new bridge; it will leave the surrounding area in better condition than before construction. We are improving park land, the historic Eugene Millrace, and paths that are enjoyed by countless people for recreation and commuting.

ODOT is extremely thankful to the hundreds of hours of volunteer time that has already been devoted by the residents and design professionals of Eugene and Springfield on this important project.

Please visit our Web site at www.WillametteBridge.org for more information and for updates as the project continues.

Sincerely,

Tom Lauer, manager
Major Projects Branch
Oregon Department of Transportation

GROUNDBREAKING

Tuesday, August 11, 2009 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Official Groundbreaking Ceremony

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- Senator Ron Wyden
- Congressman Peter DeFazio
- Thomas Lauer, manager, Major Projects Branch, ODOT
- Dick Upton, project manager, ODOT
- Esther Stutzman, Kalapuya Tribe
- Matthew Garrett, director, ODOT

Refreshments and Conversation

10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.



I-5 Willamette River Bridge

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Project Information

Project location

- On Interstate 5 at milepost 192.7 where it crosses the Willamette River between the cities of Eugene and Springfield.

Project purpose and need

- The purpose of the project is to improve safety and maintain connectivity and mobility for all users of I-5 over the Willamette River and the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area.
- Bridge inspection reports in 2002 showed shear cracks growing quicker than expected throughout the reinforced concrete beams supporting the bridge deck. Traffic has been diverted to a temporary detour structure until a new bridge can be constructed.

Construction overview

- Construction will have minor impacts on vehicle traffic. Bicycle and pedestrian path users may be affected, and signed detours will be provided.
- ODOT is designing the new bridges wide enough to eventually carry up to six lanes of traffic (three lanes in each direction) to meet the projected long-term traffic needs. The new bridges will be striped to carry two lanes in each direction, matching the existing alignment of I-5. Any future widening of I-5 would require a full environmental review.
- The new bridge design will accommodate potential future configurations of Franklin Boulevard, to the extent feasible.
- Lane County and the cities of Eugene and Springfield are active participants in the process through participation on the Project Development Team.
- The bridge design phase of the project will continue through the end of 2009.

Cost estimate

- The project is funded at \$147 million for construction.
- Funding sources are Oregon Transportation Investment Act and Federal SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) earmark funds.

Key project milestones

- Construction: Summer 2009 to winter 2012.
- Construction crews establish staging and access areas in Alton Baker Park in August 2009.
- Detours to bicycle and pedestrian paths begin in August 2009.

Project Committees

A Community Advisory Group of key community organizations has been instrumental in developing goals and objectives for the Willamette River Bridge project. The group provided input and recommendations on the preferred bridge type and will continue to help shape the project through final design and construction.

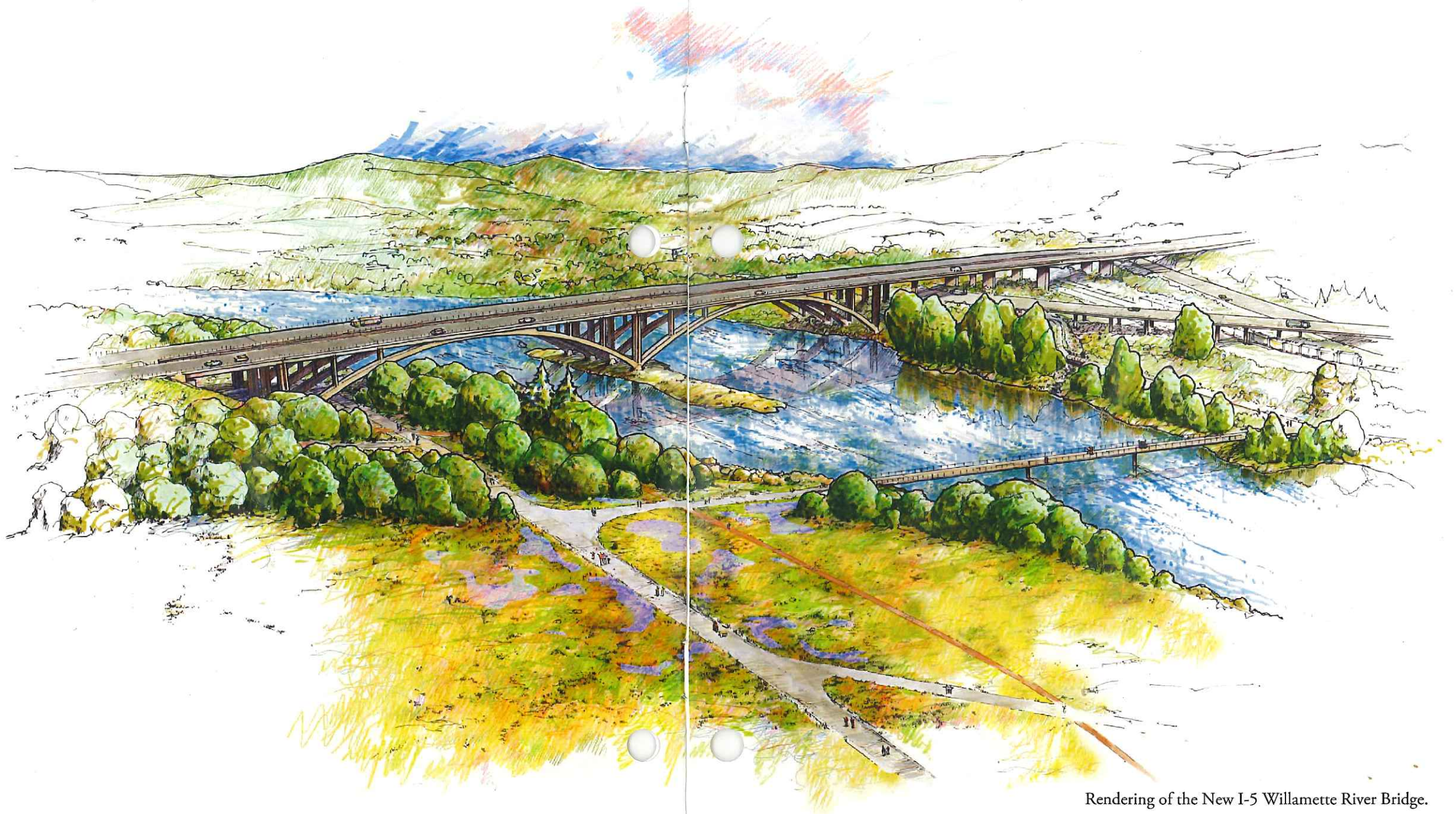
Members:

- Adam Gutierrez, Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Bob Kline, Harlow Neighbors
- Charlotte Behm, Springfield Neighborhood and CPC of the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park
- Chris Ramey, University of Oregon
- Dave Carvo, Glenwood Neighborhood Group
- David Sonnichsen, Fairmount Neighbors Association and CPC of the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park
- Eric Gunderson, American Institute of Architects, Southwest Oregon Chapter
- Greg Hyde, Willamalane Park & Recreation District
- Laurie Holts, Eugene Parks and Open Space Division
- Rich Hazel, Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Association
- Scott Wylie, Springfield Resident
- Vicky Mello, CPC of the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park

A Project Development Team has been established that includes representatives from ODOT, Eugene, Springfield, Lane County and the CAG. The PDT will use information from the technical analysis and input from agencies and the public to make decisions concerning the project.

Members:

- Al Heyn, ODOT Region 2
- Ann Sanders, ODOT Region 2
- Chris Henry, City of Eugene Public Works
- David Sonnichsen, Fairmount Neighbors Association (CAG Representative)
- Don Angermayer, ODOT Region 2
- Greg Mott, City of Springfield
- Kent Howe, Lane County
- Matt Stucker, ODOT Region 2
- Molly Cary, ODOT Region 2
- Sonny Chickering, ODOT Region 2
- Tom Boyatt, City of Springfield Public Works



Rendering of the New I-5 Willamette River Bridge.

ODOT would like to give a special thanks to
the Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce for their generous contributions of
refreshments to today's groundbreaking event.



**Eugene Area
Chamber of
Commerce**



For more information, please contact:

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