

Facebook Posts

2011-

Oakridge High School Field Trip to ODOT's (Oregon Department of Transportation) I-5 Willamette Bridge Replacement project, Eugene, Oregon on June 1, 2011
Hosted by Hamilton Construction Company (Judy Betts, Jeff Firth and Con Oconnor)



A Safety Orientation conducted by Hamilton Construction Company personnel is provided to students prior to visiting the project site





Oakridge High School bus escorted into restricted area



Students get to check out the top surface (concrete deck) of the southbound lanes of the newly built bridge. Note the plastic sheeting to protect recently placed concrete from inclement weather during the curing process







Students under the bridge learning about the bridge structure and support.

2012-

Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012

Whilamut Passage naming ceremony – 11 a.m., the Whilamut Natural Area, northwest of the Knickerbocker Bridge in Eugene's Alton Baker Park. The Oregon Department of Transportation, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and community volunteers will officially name the new Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge. The ceremony will include brief remarks, traditional tribal presentations and an unveiling of the new Whilamut Passage Bridge freeway sign. For more information: John Lively, Public Involvement Coordinator, (541) 484-7052.

2013-

April 17th



Before and after: The original Interstate 5 bridge over the Willamette River (top), which opened to traffic in December 1961, connected existing stretches of I-5 and made travel along the interstate easier and faster until safety concerns led to its closure in 2004. The new Whilamut Passage Bridge will feature two graceful, parallel deck-arch structures approximately 63 feet above the water. The southbound span (bottom) was completed in August 2011; the northbound bridge will open to traffic later this year.



On a sunny Saturday in September 2012, Eugene-Springfield community members, including tribal leaders, joined ODOT to officially name the Whilamut Passage Bridge. The name celebrates the Kalapuya people, members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, who lived in the area before Europeans arrived. At the ceremony, tribal members offered a blessing and followed with singing and drumming.

July 26: Photo and caption at the event (Post on July 26)

Today is a special day for ODOT and the communities of Eugene and Springfield, as honored dignitaries join us to commemorate the new, soon-to-open Whilamut Passage Bridge!

Aug. 3: Pre-event reminder; photo and caption of the event

(Post on Aug. 1) Join us this Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the opening celebration for the Willamette River Bridge project. This family-friendly event will take place at Alton Baker Park in Eugene and includes community booths and the chance to tour the bridge before it opens to traffic and view project artwork in progress. For more information, check out [[Bit.ly to blog post](#)].

(Post on Aug. 3) Thank you, Eugene and Springfield, for your partnership, which has helped us build the beautiful and functional Whilamut Passage Bridge. We couldn't be happier with the outcome, and we are so glad we could celebrate its opening with all of you today!

August 9, 2013



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.



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.

2014-

June 23, 2014

Posting date: June 27

The new multi-use viaduct path along the south bank of the Willamette River is now open! The new path offers a direct, safer route for pedestrians and bike riders from the Knickerbocker Bridge to Glenwood Boulevard.

Enjoy great views of the river and the new Whilamut Passage Bridge with family and friends this summer.

