WELCOME!

This slide show takes about six minutes and provides information about the project and the purpose of today’s meeting.
The Project

- ODOT has completed an environmental review process for replacing the I-5 bridge over the Willamette River between Eugene and Springfield.
- The environmental review is assessing the possible environmental impacts of constructing a new bridge, removal of the existing bridges and the associated road improvements.
Project Area

Laurel Hill Neighborhood on Judkins Point

Franklin Blvd.

Willamette River

Eugene

Springfield

I-5
Purpose of the Project

- To improve safety and maintain connectivity and mobility for all users of I-5 crossing the Willamette River in the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Area.
Why Replace the Bridge?

- Built in 1962, the original bridge has structural problems and would not be cost-effective to repair or widen.
- ODOT constructed a temporary bridge in 2004 to accommodate traffic until a new bridge could be designed and built.
- The temporary bridge is not designed to withstand earthquakes and does not meet federal standards for permanent interstate bridges.
The Environmental Assessment

- Assessed the impacts of constructing a new bridge and removing the existing bridges.
- Is required as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- The EA helps the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ODOT determine:
  - The Interests and opinions of public and government agencies
  - Whether there are significant environmental impacts
  - What mitigation measures might be necessary

The following slides outline the sections of the EA for your review and comment today.
Executive Summary

- Contains a brief overview of the findings in the Environmental Assessment
- Answers a variety of questions about the history of the project

➢ Copies of the Executive Summary are available today.
Chapter 1 Describes the project

- Explains the **Project Purpose & Need and Goals & Objectives** – created by the project committees and the public.
- Includes a **Public Involvement Summary** – how the public has been involved-to-date.

Bridge model made by an 11-yr old participant
Chapter 2 discusses the two alternatives analyzed in the EA:

- **No Build**
  - Upgrades the detour bridge and removes the decommissioned bridge.
  - Does not meet the project purpose and need.

- **Build Alternative**
  - Removes the existing bridges
  - Constructs replacement bridges
  - Built within the existing ODOT right-of-way
Project Alternatives – Pier Location

The EA outlines the impacts of ...

The pier locations in the water and on land
The EA also outlines the impacts of the…
● The bridge size (width and height) based on four bridge types – Box Girder; I- Girder; Deck Arch and Through Arch

The EA does not consider…
● Design elements such as color, pier shape, texture, railings, or specific aesthetic benefits. These will be determined as part of the design process following the EA.

➢ The following slides show the bridge types analyzed in the EA with some design ideas to give you a sense of what is possible with each bridge type.
Potential Bridge Type: I - Girder

(Existing Bridge)
Potential Bridge Type: Box Girder

Box Girder with Color, Texture, and Pier Variation
Box Girder with Color Variation
Box Girder with Texture
Box Girder with Pier Variation

(Existing Bridge)
Potential Bridge Type: Deck Arch

(Existing Bridge)
Potential Bridge Type: Through Arch

(Existing Bridge)
Environmental Technical Reports

Chapter 3 documents existing conditions and the anticipated impacts both positive and negative in the following areas:

- Air Quality
- Archaeology
- Biology/Threatened & Endangered Species
- Geology
- Hazardous Materials
- Historic Resources
- Land Use
- Right of Way
- Section 4(f) – Parks
- Section 6(f)
- Socio-economics
- Visual Quality
- Water Quality
- Wetlands

➢ The technical reports and staff are here today to answer questions.
Chapter 4 explains mitigation and conservation - how to address/minimize the impacts found in the technical analysis.

- The following slides include highlights from the technical analysis and proposed mitigation.
Biological impacts include:

- Wildlife and habitat disturbed by construction
- Aquatic species affected by the periods of in-water work
- The effect of reducing the number of bridge piers in and adjacent to the Willamette River from 15 to six
... proposed mitigation includes...

- Fish avoidance, including in-water work timing
- Work area isolation
- Providing fish passage
- Minimizing work areas
- Preventing debris from falling in the river
- Identifying and avoiding sensitive areas
- Restoring and re-vegetating disturbed areas
Impacts to the Alton Baker Park/Whilamut Natural Area include...

- Proposed temporary use of the trail as a haul route
- Proposed removal of fill material on the east side of I-5 within the park
- Effects on the trails during construction
...proposed mitigation...

- Storage and staging areas will be minimized
- Trails will be kept open, safe, and useable during construction and a traffic control plan will be prepared
- A continuous route across ODOT right-of-way throughout construction will be maintained
- Affected areas will be restored as needed
Noise Impacts include...

- Construction noise and noise from projected traffic increases over time
- The No Build Alternative would impact 67 homes, 2 businesses, the park, and cemetery, while the Build Alternative would impact 75 homes, 2 businesses, the park, and cemetery.
- “Impact” is based on noise levels above 65 decibels.
...proposed mitigation...

- Work hour restrictions on construction activities
- Noise walls that meet ODOT criteria for noise reduction and cost-effectiveness are recommended in two locations

- A noise expert is here today to discuss the noise impacts and the recommendation.
Transportation impacts include...

- Some delays. Roads, railroad, and paths are generally open during construction.
- Short term road closures as needed.
- The Build Alternative would provide bridges that meet current design and safety standards and meet long-term traffic needs.
The traffic management plan includes:

- Coordination with schools, emergency services, transit district
- Maintaining access to businesses
- Minimizing daytime street closures
- Keeping trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks open and safe
- Reconstructing bike/pedestrian facilities to design standards
Impacts to Visual Quality include...

- Adverse visual impacts during construction
- Long-term visual benefit from fewer piers and consistent design/appearance of new bridges
... proposed mitigation includes...

- Continued community outreach and involvement regarding new bridge type, pier shape, architectural treatments, color, texture, and landscaping
- Design workshops/charettes
- Online surveys
- Newsletters
- Website updates
Impacts to Wetlands and Water Resources include…

- Impacts during construction
- Up to four “in water” work periods for the Build Alternative
- The Build Alternative would increase impervious surfaces, but would add water quality treatment
proposed mitigation and conservation

- Erosion and sediment control
- Construction stormwater pollution prevention
- Water quality treatment of stormwater
- Wetland restoration/rehabilitation
To Comment on the EA

- Provide written comments or oral testimony today. A court reporter is onsite to record your statement.
- Request a CD or hard copy of the EA and provide written comments by **February 19, 2008** to:

  Jim Cox  
  ODOT Major Projects Branch  
  680 Cottage St NE  
  Salem, OR 97301  
  Jim.B.Cox@odot.state.or.us
What happens next?

- The project staff and the Community Advisory Group will be reviewing the public comment on the EA at their next meeting on March 11, 2008 10 – 1pm at the Eugene Library.

- The bridge design process begins in Spring 2008.

- A revised EA will be released in June 2008.

- If you would like to receive project updates in the mail, be sure to provide your name and contact information on the sign-in sheet.

- Thanks for coming today! We appreciate you taking the time to find out more about the project and to give us your input.
Upcoming project steps

I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project Steps and Schedule