

I-5 Willamette River Bridge

SUMMARY OF “BRIDGE VIEW” OPEN HOUSE – JULY 26, 2008

OVERVIEW

A public open house for the I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project was held on Saturday, July 26, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the ODOT staging yard at the corner of Franklin Boulevard and Jenkins Drive in Eugene. The purpose of the open house event was to provide information about the bridge design process, provide the online survey results, show examples of possible design elements, provide guided tours of the bridge site, and gather input on the bridge type.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the project team attending the meeting included:

- Megan Banks (LCOG)
- Jamie Damon (JLA Public Involvement)
- Larry Fox (OBEC)
- John Ferguson (T.Y. Lin)
- Larry Gescher (Slayden)
- James Gregory (HDR)
- Lynn Iaquina (ODOT)
- Kevin Parrish (Hamilton)
- Steve Turner (ODOT)

The sign-in sheets recorded 39 attendees, though approximately 200 members of the public were estimated in attendance. Roughly half of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) was on hand to assist staff and answer questions from the public.

NOTIFICATION AND PUBLICITY

The meeting was advertised by the following methods:

- A four-page color newsletter was mailed to approximately 1,100 agencies, organizations, and individuals on the interested parties list.
- Email notification was sent approximately 700 people on the project interested parties list.
- A Newspaper display ad was published in *The Eugene Register-Guard* on 7/20/2008.
- A notice was issued to the Community Briefs section of *The Register-Guard* on 7/22/2008.
- A press release was issued on 7/22/2008.
- Notice was posted on the project website (www.willamettebridge.org), as well as on the Springfield and Eugene city websites.

MEETING FORMAT

The format of the open house was drop-in style, outside under tents. There was no formal presentation. Four 10-foot by 10-foot tents focused on presenting information on the areas listed below. Project team and CAG members were available throughout the meeting to explain the displays and answer questions.

Displays

1. **Welcome/sign in/background/process steps** - including a sign in sheet, copies of the recent newsletter, and a handout booklet with copies of the displays and a self-guided tour comment form.
2. **Bridge types** – including renderings of each bridge type.
3. **Survey results** – including highlights and images from the recent online survey.
4. **Design considerations** – including design elements displays with aesthetic treatments such as texture, pier shape, railings, and above deck features.

The bridge view also featured three “View Stations” located along the pathways in Alton Baker Park. Staff and committee members at each station were available to answer location-specific questions about the bridge and to gather feedback from open house attendees and park users.

Available Handouts

- Comment Form
- Bridge View Information Booklet
- Project Newsletter
- Open House Summaries (1-3)
- Project Purpose and Need/Goals and Objectives Information

COMMENTS

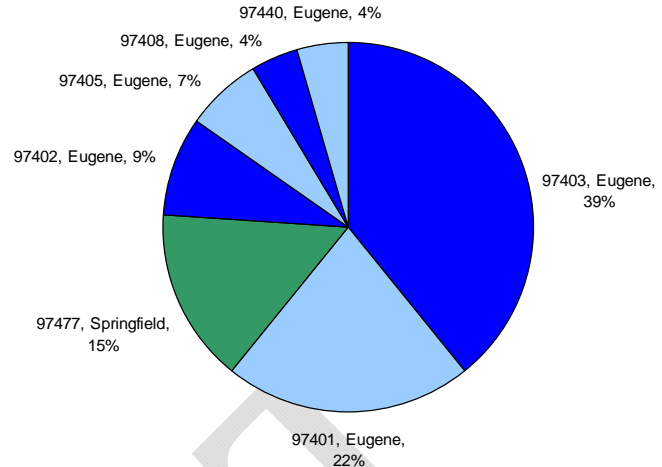
A total of 49 comment forms were received at the event. This document provides a summary of responses received. Full comments are included in Appendix A.

The most common theme involved support for the visual aesthetics and views created by the through arch and deck arch type bridge designs.

The comment findings will be presented to the project Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Project Development Team (PDT) and will help to guide their discussion and eventual bridge type recommendations.

ZIP CODE

Observations: Eugene responses (85%) were over-represented compared to Springfield (15%). Zip codes immediately adjacent to the project area (97401, 97403, and 97477) constituted 76% of the responses.



QUESTION 1: WHICH VIEWPOINT STATION(S) HAVE YOU VISITED TODAY? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Observations: Forty-one respondents reported visiting the Jenkins Drive area. Twenty-two respondents visited the Knickerbocker Bridge view station and 16 respondents visited the farthest view stations at the Frog Pond and Canoe Canal.

QUESTION 2: DID YOU SEE OR LEARN ANYTHING AT THE VIEWPOINTS STATIONS THAT YOU THINK IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN SELECTING A BRIDGE TYPE OR MAKING DESIGN DECISIONS?

Observations: Respondents emphasized expressed support for open piers and the through-arch designs based upon their aesthetic qualities and the relationship between the bridge and the existing views. Consistent themes are highlighted below:

Key Themes: Station #1 at Knickerbocker Bridge

- Use the fewest piers
- The through-arch and deck-arch bridge types work best because their strong curves echo the hills and mountains
- The bridge should not be the predominant view from the bike trail

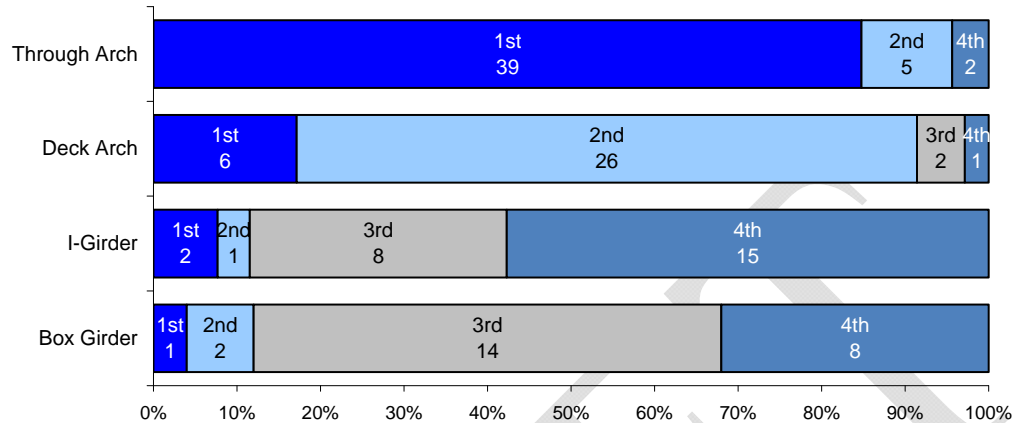
Key Themes: Station #2 at Frog Pond

- Strong support for open piers and the through-arch design
- A gateway should be created between the two parks

Key Themes: Station #3 at Canoe Canal

- Use the opportunity to re-align the bike path underneath the bridge
- Consider lighting options

QUESTION 5: AFTER VIEWING THE INFORMATION AT THE *BRIDGE VIEW*, RANK THE BRIDGE TYPES BASED ON HOW WELL YOU THINK EACH FITS THE SITE. (1 = FIRST CHOICE, 4 = LAST CHOICE.)



Observations: Respondents were largely in favor of the through-arch bridge with 80% selecting this type as their first choice. Over half of the respondents ranked the Deck Arch as their 2nd choice. The girder designs received the fewest first place rankings and the most last place rankings.

QUESTION 6: WHY DID YOU RANK THE BRIDGE TYPES THE WAY YOU DID?

Observations: Overall, respondents reported the following themes:

- **Aesthetics** – Respondents want an aesthetically pleasing structure that compliments its surroundings and favorably cited the aesthetics and presentation of the arch bridges.
- **Unique Gateway** – Respondents sought a unique and distinctive design that can serve as a gateway to the Eugene/Springfield area.

QUESTION 7: WHAT DESIGN ELEMENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE ON THE NEW BRIDGE?

Observations: Many respondents favored incorporating arches and other unique and artistic design elements into the final design. The top five recommendations included:

- **Arches** – mimic Oregon’s coastal bridges with grand curves and arch styles.
- **Artistic** – colorful mosaics and cement details that portray a natural/Oregon motif.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Features** – including lighting and views for all users.
- **Sound barriers** – providing sound walls and noise relief.
- **Durability** – focusing on sound engineering and durability.

QUESTION 8: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE US TO KNOW?

Observations: Respondents strongly supported the public process and open house format. Responses also reiterated the desire to use this project as an opportunity to create a unique and lasting structure that would highlight the surrounding landscape and provide a strong and impressive gateway effect. Several respondents expressed a concern regarding noise impacts to the Laurel Hill Neighborhood. Others reiterated the desire for the bridge to be at foremost practical and cost effective.