



IN-DEPTH ARTICLES

Fast Facts: The Willamette River Bridge November 25, 2009

- The new Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge in Eugene will measure approximately 1,759 feet. If stood on one end, the bridge would be taller than the Empire State Building (which is 1,454 feet high).
- The demolition containment structure is approximately 120,000 square feet, larger than some Costco stores.
- For every tree that is cleared because of construction, the Oregon Department of Transportation will replace it with at least two native trees at the completion of the project in 2012. The native species that will be planted include Western red cedars, Oregon ashes, Brayshaw black cottonwoods, Oregon white oaks, bigleaf maples and red alders.
- To help minimize the bridge's impact on the environment, all pile-driving hammers are now being fueled by canola oil, which is a good energy source because of its low toxicity and rapid decomposition in the environment.
- As of Nov. 5, 2009, Hamilton Construction had used 3.5 million pounds of steel beams in the deck of the work bridge. That's the same weight as approximately 1,000 mid-size cars or 14 adult blue whales.
- ODOT anticipates that 400,000 hours of construction trade work will be required to replace the I-5 Willamette River Bridge.
- The construction team plans to recycle 50,000 tons of concrete. That's about the same weight as 10,000 adult male African elephants.