

2009 Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act State Highway 43 at the Sellwood Bridge Interchange

The State Highway 43 at the Sellwood Bridge Interchange project is located in the City of Portland in Multnomah County.

Project Cost

The 2009 Oregon Legislature allocated \$30 million in the JTA for the Sellwood Bridge/Highway 43 Interchange project. The total cost of Multnomah County's project to replace the Sellwood Bridge is approximately \$300 million.

Project Description

A component of Multnomah County's project is to improve the Highway 43 connection at the west end of the bridge. A new Highway 43/Sellwood Bridge interchange, as shown in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), would consist of a signalized intersection at the west end of the bridge above the existing highway. Ramps from the signalized intersection will provide highway access to and from the new bridge and provide access to the River View Cemetery and businesses along the river. The interchange would also provide signalized crosswalks and would accommodate bicyclist and pedestrian access to west-side destinations. Ramps from the bridge would provide access to the Willamette Greenway Trail.

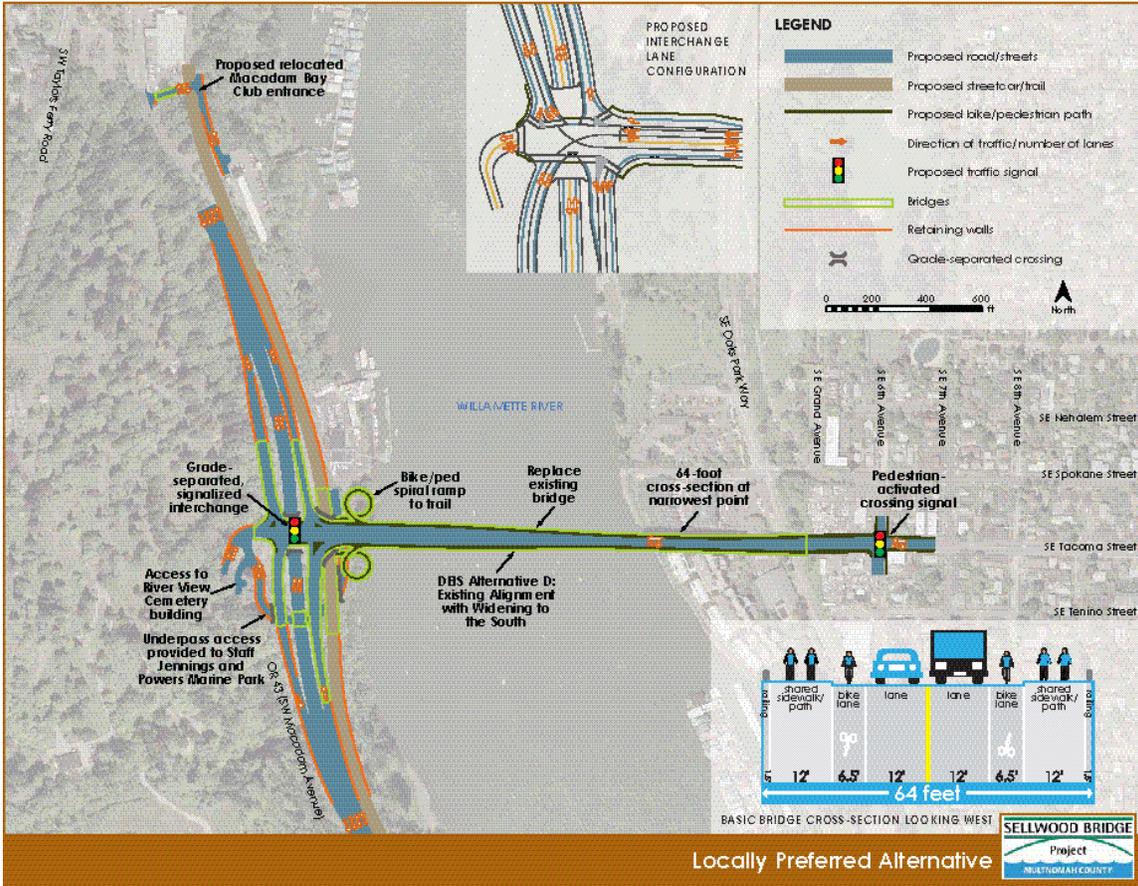
The EIS estimates an interchange improvement would cost approximately \$100 million. ODOT is currently working with Multnomah County to identify a \$30 million interchange improvement.

Why the Project is Needed

The Sellwood Bridge has a very low structural rating, an ongoing landslide, poor existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and lack of seismic reinforcement. Construction of a new bridge necessitates improvements to the interchange. A new bridge will be built higher than the existing bridge, requiring reconstruction of the intersection on-ramps for cars, bicycles and pedestrians. Additional improvements may be needed to accommodate a future streetcar line.

Current Status

Multnomah County is nearing completion of an EIS for replacing the Sellwood Bridge. They expect to have a record of decision in summer 2010. More detailed design decisions will be made after completion of the EIS.



The Sellwood Bridge locally-preferred alternative will provide efficient connections to and from the Sellwood Bridge. Improvements on the west end include a signalized interchange, bike and pedestrian improvements, and access to local businesses and residences.