



SW Barbur Boulevard (OR 99W) Newbury & Vermont Street Bridges Rehabilitation Project Fact Sheet

Get Involved!

There will be several opportunities to provide input on the project plans prior to construction. Stay up to date on this project by visiting the Web page (address on reverse).

You may also sign up to receive email updates and invitations to open houses and other events by contacting Jilayne Jordan (see information below).

Project Timeline*

- Summer 2013: Project design completed
- Early 2014: Construction starts
- Fall 2014: Construction completed

* Dates are subject to change.

Project Contact

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The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is designing a project that will repair and rehabilitate two bridges on SW Barbur Boulevard (OR 99W), just south of Capitol Highway. This project is scheduled to start construction in spring 2014.

The Newbury Street and Vermont Street bridges were built in 1934, and both are in need of repair. The Vermont Street bridge is one of only a few bridges in Portland that still have wooden caps, which bear the weight of the bridge at both ends. The caps are rotting and cracking due to water seeping in and around them over the years. If these wooden caps are not replaced soon, the Vermont Street bridge will be weight restricted, which would prevent heavy vehicles, like trucks and TriMet buses, from using this section of SW Barbur Boulevard.

This project will:

- Replace the wooden caps on the Vermont Street bridge with steel
- Remove and replace the concrete next to the 29 joints that cross the decks of both bridges
- Grind and repave the decks of both bridges
- Improve the drainage systems on both bridges
- Install taller pedestrian/bicycle safety railing on both bridges
- Repair walkways, ramps and curbs on both bridges

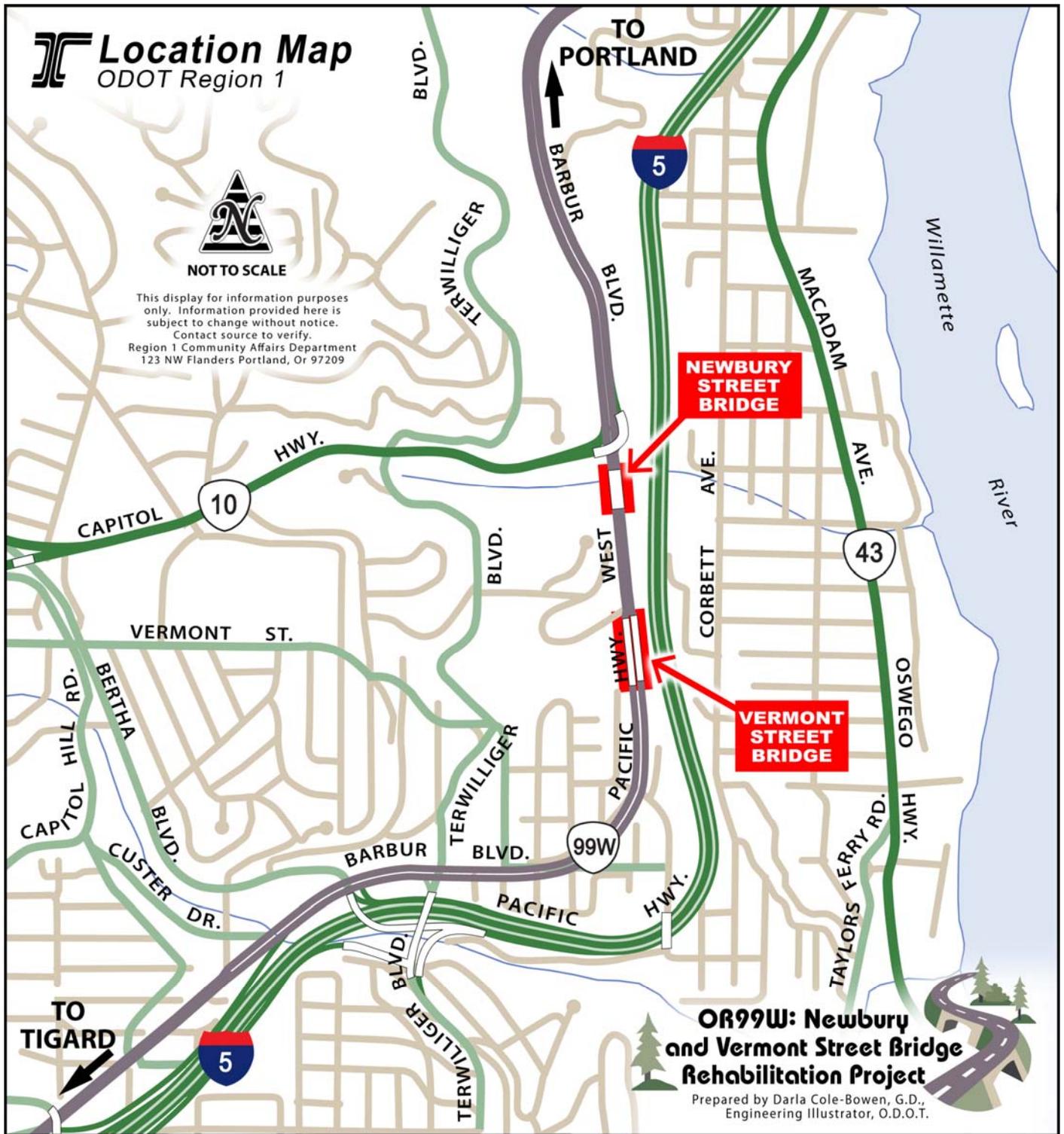
Budget and funding

The rehabilitation project will cost just over \$5 million to complete. Funding is coming from a federal grant, with matching state gas tax funds.

How will bicycle access be improved?

ODOT understands that both of these bridges create challenges for bicyclists using SW Barbur Boulevard because they are so narrow. Unfortunately, funding to widen or replace the bridges, or build a separate bicycle bridge is not available. As part of this project, ODOT will install higher pedestrian safety railing, improve the walkway ramps and upgrade the drainage systems to address problems with standing water. ODOT staff will continue to look for other, lower-cost options to improve bicycle access across these bridges during design.

Earlier this year, ODOT made some bicycle access improvements on SW Barbur Boulevard at Capitol Highway as part of a first phase of this project. This included creating ODOT's first green bike lane, trimming back vegetation and installing new signage.



Construction Impacts

Building this project will be very challenging, due to the narrowness of the bridges and the high traffic volumes. ODOT is still developing the construction staging and traffic control plans for this project, but traffic impacts during construction may include closing half of each bridge and detouring southbound traffic over a few weekends. Bicycle access to the bridges would be maintained throughout construction. More information will be available in 2013 about construction staging, traffic impacts and noise impacts.