

SIUSLAW BRIDGE PROTECTION PROJECT



Crews Working Hard to Complete South End

Construction noise is an ongoing concern that we are aware of and working to minimize. The air handler that was annoying a lot of people by making the majority of the noise was replaced several weeks ago with a newer, quieter diesel model which runs much lower pressures in the air system. This eliminated most of the higher pitch, high decibel noise from electric fans and highly pressurized air. The overall decibel level reads much lower and drops off even more quickly. Fans are being used to move diesel fumes out from under the bridge on low wind days. We hope it is helping.

Scaffold building, sandblasting and zinc coating work are currently occurring at night. Scaffold building will move to days next week following Labor Day, once lanes can be closed on the bridge during the day.

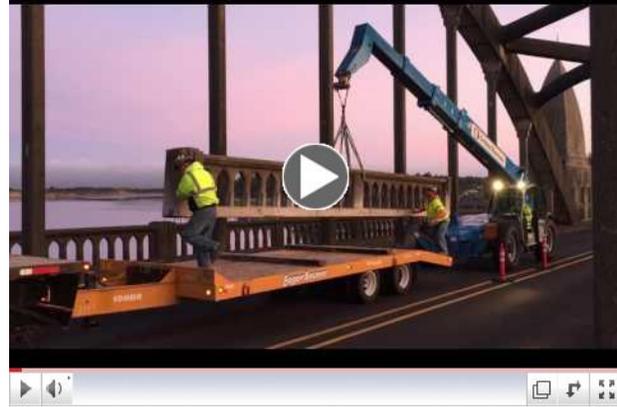
The sandblasting and zinc coating work will continue at night because to complete these tasks workers must wear full protective suits with air. No other workers can be in the area at that time. Two more spans on the north end must be completed before work can move to the south end of the bridge. We expect to reach the south side in November, but until then work should be expected most nights.

Work is being completed as quickly as possible but, as with every project, there have been complications. Specifically there was unexpected metal embedded in the concrete. These were waste pieces that were dropped into the concrete frame during original construction. The cathodic protection relies on a complete electrical current to allow the process to work and shield the bridge, so all of that metal has to be found and removed, bit by bit. That process has slowed things considerably.

Historic Siuslaw Bridge Rail to be Repurposed

The restoration of the Siuslaw Bridge includes upgrading the bridge rail to current safety standards. ODOT is replacing the old deck railing with precast, reinforced concrete that replicates the look of the original but meets current standards for pedestrian

and vehicle safety. About half of the rail has already been removed and the contractor will remove the rest over the course of the restoration project. The Siuslaw Bridge was designed by renowned State Bridge Engineer, Conde McCullough in the Art Deco style and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Where is the historic bridge rail going?

The goal is for the rail to be enjoyed and re-used for decorative purposes, and for none of it to be crushed or destroyed. The rail has been offered to local and regional public agencies, non-profit organizations, and the tribes. ***Ninety percent of the rail that has been removed from the bridge has been given to the City of Florence to repurpose in civic uses, or set aside for the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum in Florence.***

For the rest of the rail, the goal is for interested area residents to be able to purchase a section so it can be saved. BRING Recycling, the Eugene based non-profit, is coordinating the sale and distribution. Many people have expressed interest in the rail and right now there is a waiting list for it. BRING has experience with the Conde B. McCullough-designed bridge railings, having facilitated this work on several other of the retrofitted bridges.

Specifics about the bridge rail

Each piece of rail is about 28 feet long and weighs 4 to 5 tons. That is heavy, and purchasers will be responsible for hauling it to their destination. You will need more than just a pickup! If you are interested in the rail, please contact Judy Bryant at BRING and she will add you to the waiting list: 541.746.3023 x302, judyb@bringrecycling.org.



Sections look similar to the bridge rail from the Cape Creek Bridge

About BRING

BRING has worked successfully for more than four decades to change attitudes and behavior regarding waste. The organization collects and sells an extensive assortment of reusable building materials, saving hundreds of tons of resources and energy each year. Through BRING's classroom education programs and landfill tours, Lane County students learn about recycling and waste prevention. The RE:think Business program helps businesses improve their environmental performance and bottom line. For more information about BRING, visit their website at www.bringrecycling.org.

Project Background

The Siuslaw Bridge Cathodic Protection project includes making repairs to existing concrete, reinforcing and replacing the cathodic protection system on the bridge and adding seismic restraints to help maintain the integrity of the bridge in an earthquake. Existing railing is being replaced with new ornamental bridge railing. Pedestrian access to the bridge will also be improved. The job will be completed by the end of March 2019. For more information on the Siuslaw Bridge Restoration project, visit the ODOT

webpage at www.siuslawbridge.com

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