



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Northwestern Oregon: Region 2

Clatsop, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Linn, Lincoln, Benton and Lane Counties

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Preferred Alternative selected for Spencer Creek Bridge project

NEWPORT – The Oregon Department of Transportation has completed a Recommendation Document that selects Build Alternative F as the Preferred Alternative for the Spencer Creek Bridge project, which will allow the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Spencer Creek Bridge is located about 5 miles north of Newport on US 101 adjacent to Beverly Beach State Park.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in July 2004 and a Public Hearing was held in September 2004. The DEIS evaluated two build alternatives, Alternative F and Alternative G. Both alternatives replaced the bridge in about the same location as the existing bridge, but south of the bridge the alternatives differed significantly. Alternative F basically follows the existing US 101 but shifts the roadway about 50 feet east away from the ocean, parallel to the existing roadway. The southern part of Alternative G was rerouted inland through the Beverly Beach community and rejoined US 101 near Wade Creek, about a mile south of the Spencer Creek Bridge. Alternative F has been selected as the Preferred Alternative.

“The selection of Alternative F was relatively easy as it by far had the least environmental impacts, had the majority of supporting comments from the public, and was the least costly” said Duane James Liner, Oregon Department of Transportation Project Leader.

(more)

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The next step is to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and have a Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the Federal Highway Administration. This is anticipated in the summer of 2005. Construction is planned to start in 2006.

The project is not fully funded at this time, which likely will result in phased construction. If phased, the first phase would probably include the bridge replacement with construction anticipated to start in 2006, while the second phase would be that part of the project south of the bridge with the anticipated date of construction undetermined until funding is available for this phase. The FEIS will cover the entire project, Alternative F alignment, and address phasing possibilities.

The public is invited to review the Recommendation Document. Copies are available at the ODOT Area 4 office at 3700 SW Philomath Blvd, Corvallis. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Duane James Liner, Project Leader, ODOT, 3700 SW Philomath Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97333 (541-757-4158) or e-mail Duane.J.Liner@odot.state.or.us

The Recommendation Document is also available online at the Region 2 web site www.odot.state.or.us/region2Public. Click the Spencer Creek Bridge link.

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