

Above-deck art enhancements

On Sept. 27, the project design team released a Request for Proposals inviting artists to submit design concepts for enhancements to be constructed above the bridge deck. The enhancements will be installed next to the roadway near the new bridges. An informational meeting and tour took place on Oct. 25 providing additional information to interested artists. Initial proposals are due Nov. 17. The selection committee, made up of local residents, will meet on Dec. 6 to select three to five finalists. In March 2011, the Community Advisory Group and Project Development Team will make recommendations to ODOT on final artwork. The public will have an opportunity to view the design enhancement plans early next year.

All approved art enhancements for above the deck and in the parks will be installed in late 2013 or early 2014, following completion of the Willamette River Bridge project.



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Tours

Tours of the I-5 Willamette River Bridge construction project can be arranged by contacting John Lively at john@cawood.com or calling (541) 484-7052. Tours are regularly scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Tours are limited to a maximum of 15 participants. Advance sign-up is required.

Contact for more information:

Rick Little, ODOT Public Information Officer, (541) 726-2442

John Lively, Construction Public Involvement Coordinator, (541) 484-7052

If you are not already on our mailing list, contact Nichole Hayward at (541) 484-7052 or e-mail nichole@cawood.com. The newsletter is distributed electronically unless otherwise requested.

I-5 Willamette River Bridge

Eugene & Springfield



Fall 2010



Building a new work bridge east of the existing bridge.

Investing now saves time and money

The Willamette River Bridge project is the largest bridge replacement project to date for the Oregon Department of Transportation. ODOT and Hamilton Construction are working together to find opportunities to save time and costs, while building a bridge designed to last 100 years.

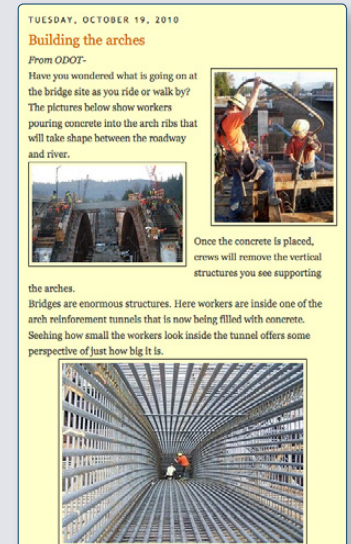
Recently, ODOT agreed to purchase steel ahead of schedule to start building the second work bridge a year earlier than originally planned. This allowed for completion of some of the work before this year's in-water work windows ended. For the Willamette River Bridge project, working in the river is restricted to windows of time between July and October and the month of April to protect endangered and sensitive species in the Willamette River.

Early completion of the work bridge means the contractor can dismantle the detour bridge and do other preparatory work on the northbound Interstate 5 bridge at least six months earlier than originally expected. Saving time helps to save money.

Follow our blog

With more than 30 posts since June, the Willamette River Bridge blog has become the place to get the latest news on construction, mobility impacts and other bridge information. Recent posts have covered a visit by representatives of the National Science Foundation, construction of a tree wall and sound wall, and a visit by Congressmen Jim Oberstar and Peter DeFazio. Most of the posts include images that are unique to the blog.

Don't wait for the next newsletter. Visit willametteriverbridge.blogspot.com for the latest news.



For current project updates please visit www.willamettebridge.org and follow us on Twitter: @OregonDOT.



Arch ribs formed for the new Willamette River Bridge.



Box girder beams being poured over I-5 northbound off-ramp.



Drainage swale north of the Canoe Canal.



Bridge falsework spans Franklin Boulevard.



Sculptured concrete work on sound wall for Laurel Hill Valley neighborhood.

Summer construction moves project ahead

As winter approaches, progress on the Willamette River Bridge can be seen in many different locations. Several projects are now complete, including:

- The new southbound I-5 Canoe Canal Bridge.
- The base paving of the widened I-5 southbound lanes north of the bridge.
- The drainage swale west of the freeway.
- The tree wall north of the new southbound bridge.

The reconstructed on-ramp from Franklin Boulevard to I-5 is nearing completion, and the sound wall next to the Laurel Hill Valley neighborhood will be finished by the end of the year. Landscaping at the base of the wall will be installed later. Delaying the opening of the on-ramp until Dec. 30 allows time for the sound wall to be completed ahead of schedule.

Crews will install sculptured concrete and spray shotcrete on the neighborhood side of the sound wall to create a look representing the geologic features from the nearby hills.

The center sections of the arches supporting the southbound bridge as it spans the Willamette River are ready to pour. Once the arches are complete, work will begin on the falsework for the bridge deck support beams.

South of the river, falsework is in place for box girder beams and crews are starting to pour the concrete. Expect more falsework construction and bridge decking work throughout the winter and spring. Bridge railing and other finishing work will follow completion of the bridge deck. Traffic will shift to the new southbound bridge in late summer or early fall 2011.



Tree wall on west side of I-5 southbound.



Canoe Canal Bridge ready for final lane paving early in 2011.

U.S. Reps. Oberstar and DeFazio visit project

Rep. Jim Oberstar, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Rep. Peter DeFazio, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, arrived at the Willamette River Bridge construction site on Sept. 8 via a rickshaw provided by Emerald City Rickshaw. Rep. Oberstar spoke about the importance of the project and its significance to I-5 and our national economy. "Three percent of our gross domestic product passes over this 2,000 mile roadway and this critical link makes a difference," said Oberstar.



Representatives Oberstar and DeFazio join ODOT Director Matt Garrett (center) on a tour of the project.



Representatives Oberstar and DeFazio arriving at the Willamette River Bridge.

Traffic will shift to the new southbound bridge in late summer or early fall 2011.