February 2014

I-5 Seismic Retrofit Project

SW Barbur Boulevard Bridge

Oregon Department of Transportation

Project Summary

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is beginning construction on a seismic retrofit project for bridges along the Interstate 5 corridor in the Portland metropolitan area. The SW Barbur Boulevard/Oregon 99W Bridge over I-5 is one of five bridges between Portland's South Waterfront district and the Tualatin River to comprise the initial package of work. Construction on the whole project will begin in March 2014 and end in fall 2015 with work on this bridge beginning fall 2014.

ODOT's initiative to retrofit the state's older bridges to meet modern seismic specifications will help ensure I-5 would not be immobilized in the event Oregon experiences a powerful earthquake. The sites selected to receive improvements represent the first phase of an expected multi-phase program to improve the seismic sufficiency of bridges throughout the region.

Key Elements of the SW Barbur Boulevard Bridge Project

- Strengthen bent caps – the points under the bridge where the columns and horizontal beam meet – at every supporting location.

Anticipated Traffic Impacts

- Reduce shoulder width on the I-5 northbound truck ramp during the day and close the shoulder at night.
- Shift I-5 north and southbound travel lanes away from the center median and close the shoulders.
- No anticipated traffic impacts on OR 99W.

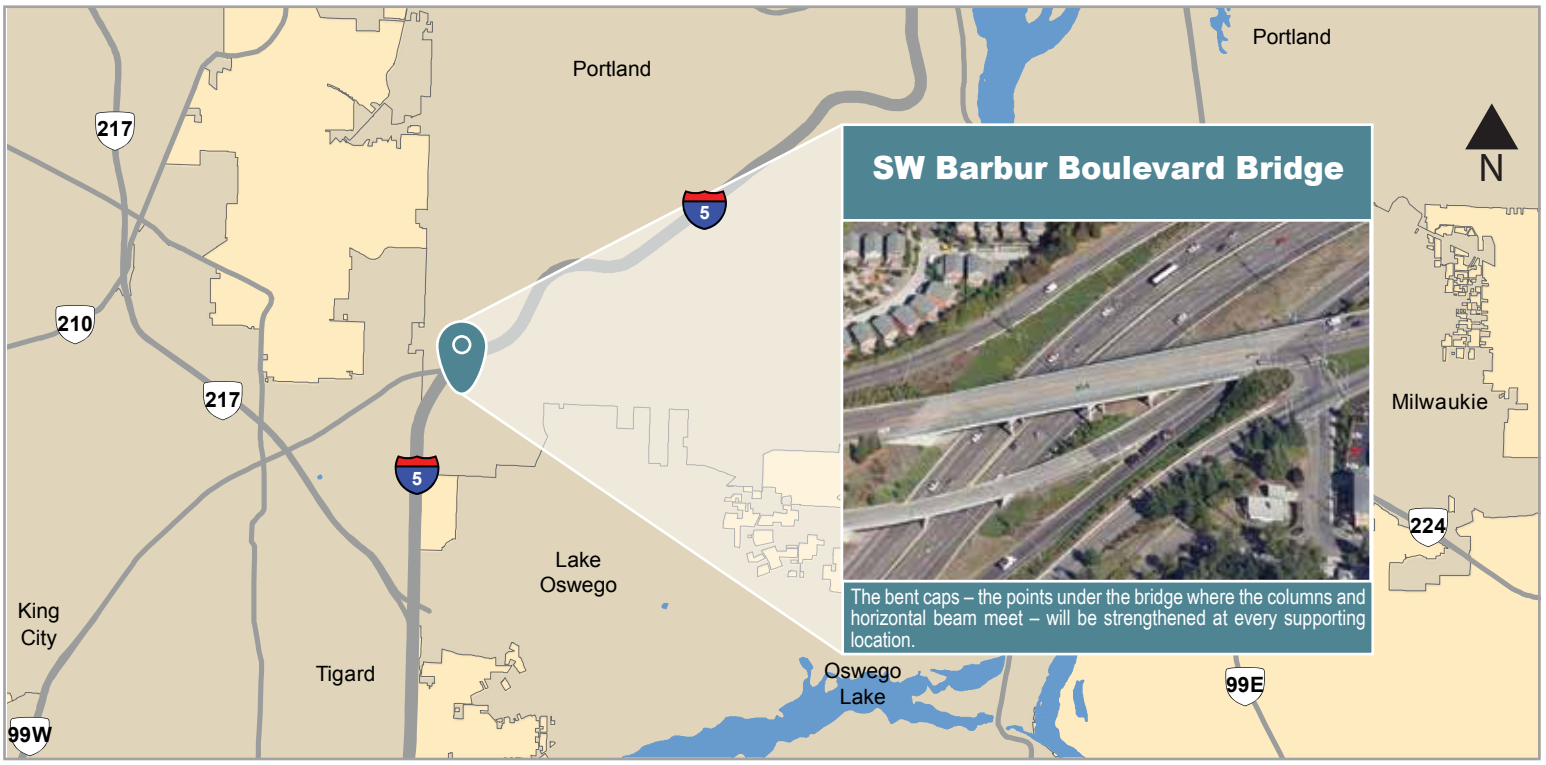
Project Location

The bridge is located above I-5 at exit 295, at the Portland/Tigard border.

Project Hotline Number

ODOT has received a noise variance from the City of Portland to allow nighttime construction work. To ensure minimal nighttime-noise impacts to the community, a 24-hour, 7 day a week hotline has been activated for the duration of the project.

Please call the ODOT noise hotline number at 503-412-2378 should any noise concerns arise. Your patience and understanding as we work to provide a sustainable and reliable transportation network is greatly appreciated.



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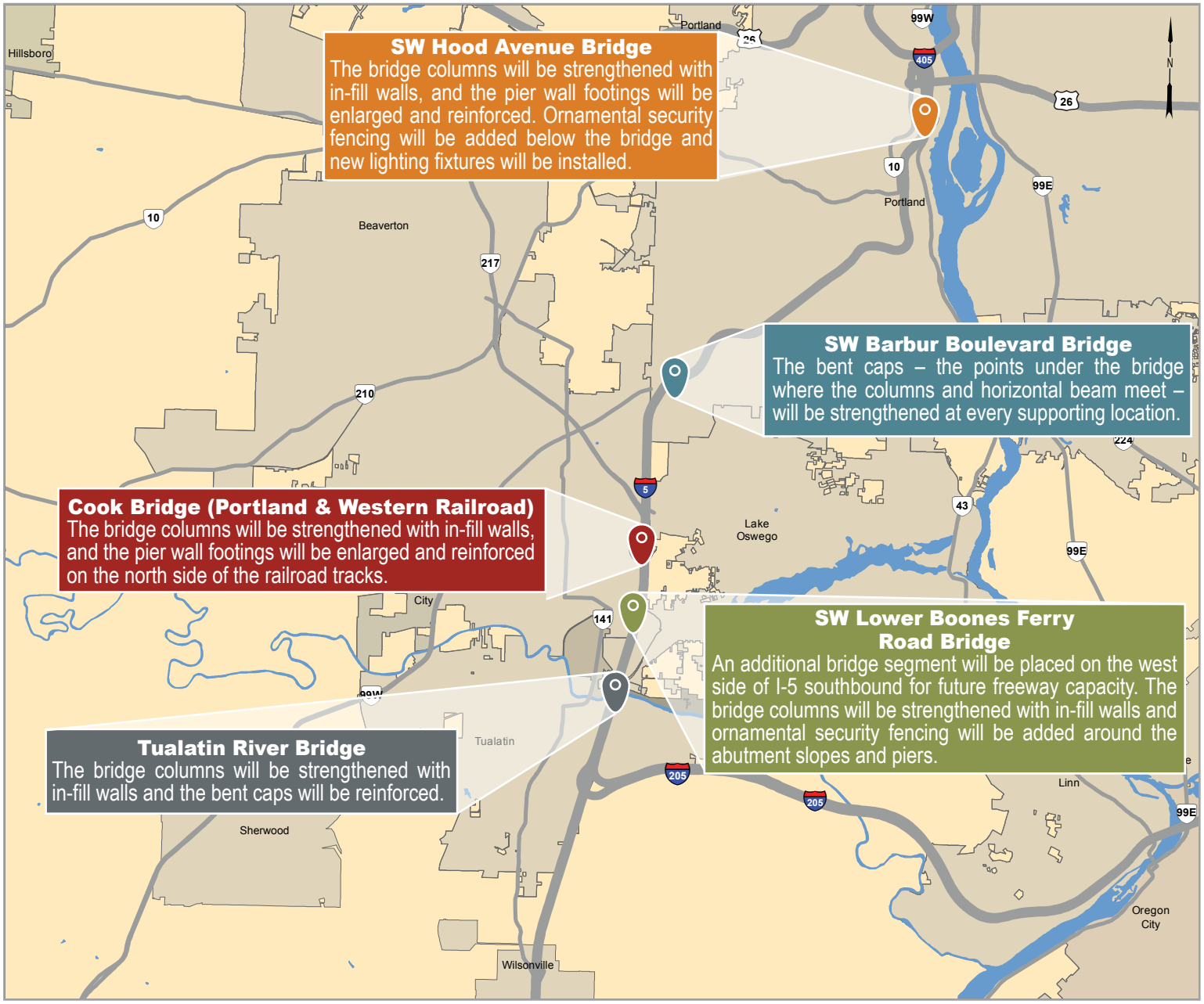
Why Seismic Retrofitting?

According to research conducted by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, there is a 40 percent chance that an earthquake similar to the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake in Japan will take place along the Oregon coast sometime in the next 50 years. In response to these findings, ODOT conducted a seismic vulnerability study of the state highway bridges to assess the risks to Oregon's only north-south interstate highway. Only a small portion of I-5 would remain passable if the state suffered a substantial seismic event; most of the older bridges would either collapse or experience severe damage and become impassable without major and very costly repair work. The seismic retrofit project will strengthen bridges and give them the ability to withstand a major earthquake. Construction will take place March 2014 to Fall 2015.



For more information or to sign-up for electronic updates, contact:
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www.i5seismic.org