

OR 22: Center Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit

Learn about the project and upcoming work

Project Overview

There are two highway bridges that cross over the Willamette River in the Salem area, the Center Street Bridge and the Marion Street Bridge. Of the two, the Center Street Bridge was determined to be the better candidate to make earthquake ready. This work will happen in two phases.

In Phase 1, we'll address seismic resiliency for the sections of the bridge over the Willamette River and two of the ramps on the east side by:

- Enlarging the bridge supports.
- Strengthening the river section and eastern side of OR 22 approaching the bridge and the ramp to southbound OR 99E.
- Replacing and upgrading the existing City of Salem waterline that's attached to the bridge to make it more resilient.
- Developing an emergency response plan that outlines the most efficient way to reconnect the west side of the bridge after a major seismic event if it occurs before Phase 2 is completed. The plan would look to reconnect West Salem and surrounding areas to downtown in weeks or months instead of years.

During our investigation, we determined it's not cost-effective to seismically retrofit the West Salem side of the bridge because of the type of soil. In a future Phase 2, after we complete an analysis and when we have funding, we will replace a portion of the bridge on the west side of the river to make it earthquake ready.

Transportation Options

Before, during and after construction, there are many options available to help reduce congestion coming in and out of downtown Salem.

- **Ride share with Get There.** Visit [GetThereConnect.com](https://getthereconnect.com) to learn about options for transit, sharing rides (carpooling or vanpooling), biking or walking. These options can help to reduce traffic congestion.
- **Bike or walk.** Bicycle and pedestrian users will be accommodated through the construction zones, though the route may vary depending on construction activities.

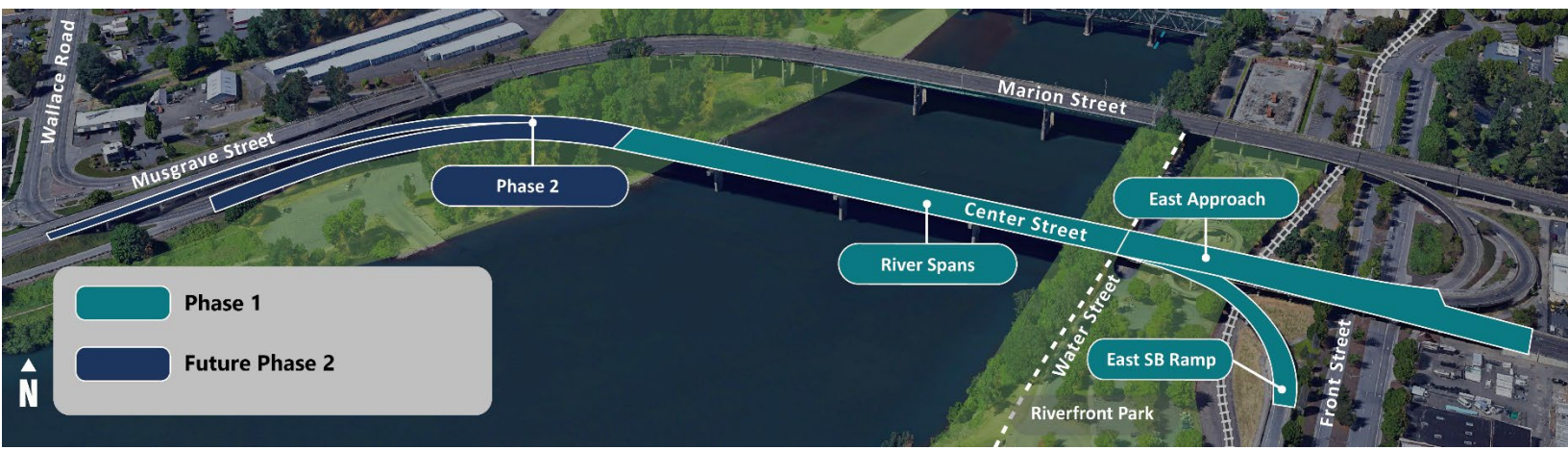
Project Schedule

- 2025: Finish Phase 1 investigations, design and finalize construction plans.
- Early 2026: Phase 1 construction bid opens.
- Summer 2026: Phase 1 construction to start.
- 2029: Phase 1 construction complete.

Estimated Project Cost

- Phase 1: \$130 - \$200 million
- Phase 2: unfunded

Visit the project webpage:
https://direc.to/ji_N (case sensitive)



Potential Construction Impacts

Traffic Impacts

Most of the work is being done under the bridge. There will be times when we take lanes, close ramps or need short-term full closures of the bridge. Impacts may change as design continues and we work out details with our partners at the City of Salem. We'll continue to update the community, including having a construction online open house later this year.

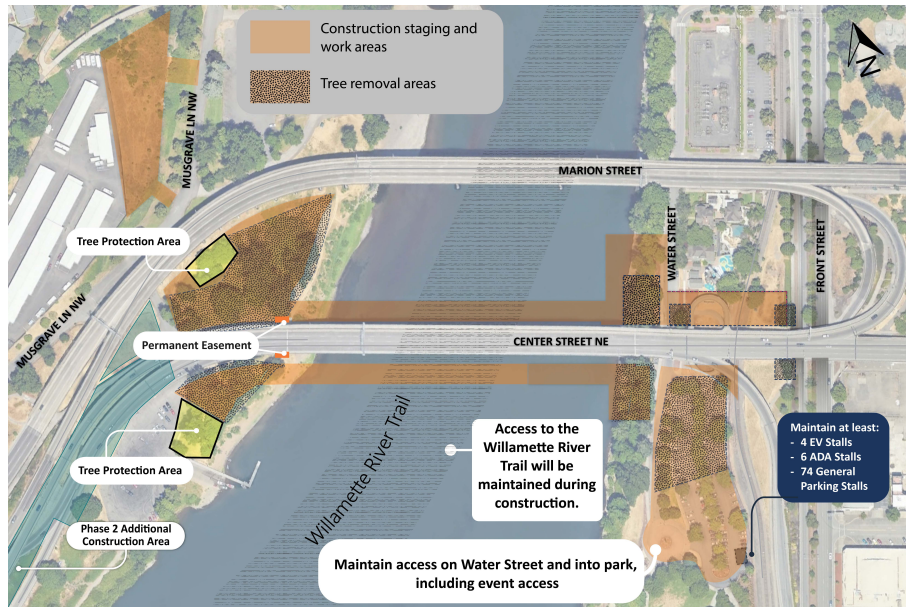
We'll know more about the schedule and when impacts will occur as we finish design. During this multi-year project potential impacts may include:

- **Lane closures** – we may need 24/7 two-lane closures on the bridge for up to four months.
- **Ramp closures** – Eastbound traffic to southbound Front Street ramp may close for up to two months. Eastbound traffic to northbound Front Street ramp may close for up to two months. Northbound to westbound Marion Street ramp may close for up to two months.
- **Bridge closures** – up to four full road closures may be needed to install new bridge joints. We'll aim to schedule the closures at nighttime when there is less traffic. Potential detour may use OR 99W through Corvallis or Newberg.

Downtown Salem:

- Northbound lane on Front Street may close for up to four months.
- We may need to close one lane of Water Street for several months at a time. Traffic to share a single lane.
- A full closure of Water Street, at night, when needed for delivery of materials and equipment during construction.

Larger version of the map available on the webpage.



We'll continue to send out project updates as we learn more about what you can expect during construction. To get these updates, visit the project webpage and sign up for email alerts. You'll also get invites to events, surveys and more!

Park Impacts

Expect temporary park impacts during construction.

Riverfront Park

Water Street and a portion of the Riverfront Park parking lot will be used to access the bridge and ramps during construction. You can expect:

- Construction activities using large cranes.
- Tree removal in parking lot and next to the bridge.
- Temporary reduced parking in park.
- Changes to pedestrian access from north entrance.

During and after construction:

- Access to the park will be maintained.
- Additional parking provided nearby.
- Large events will have decreased construction noise, bus shuttling to and from parking, and parking ambassadors to help guide traffic.
- Parking area will be rebuilt.
- Compensate for landscaping and replanting.

Wallace Marine Park

Wallace Marine Park will be used to access the bridge and ramps during construction. You can expect:

- Construction activities using large cranes.
- Tree removal next to the bridge.
- Periodic use of boat launch to deliver materials and equipment for construction on bridge.

During and after construction:

- Maintain access to park and boat ramp.
- Install tree protection areas.
- Compensate for landscaping and replanting.

Willamette River Water Trail

The Willamette River Water Trail passes under the bridge in the project area. You can expect:

- Ongoing construction activities near the trail.
- Shifts in navigational route, or where boats can move.
- Access maintained for river users.