

BENTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

OPEN HOUSE #2 SUMMARY

Overview

On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, from 4-6 p.m., the project team hosted an Open House at Letitia Carson Elementary School (2701 NW Satinwood Street) in Corvallis, OR. The meeting was open to the public.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Share project information
- Provide an update on the development of the concept plan
- Gather community feedback regarding the recommended east leg approach, bridge type, possible lighting, landscaping, artistic elements and seating and viewing areas
- Provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and talk with the project team

This event took place concurrently with the ongoing online open house (available through May 15, 2026) that makes the same materials available to the public through the ODOT project website.

Engagement Format

For the open house, the team set up eleven display boards in the meeting space. The boards provided information about the project background, previous community engagement feedback, the recommended bridge and pathway concept design, photos of similar projects that have been built and the pathway evaluation process. Additional boards displayed potential lighting, seating and viewing areas, artistic elements and landscaping ideas, with questions inviting feedback about these project elements.

When attendees arrived, they were invited to sign-in and choose whether they want to receive email updates. They were encouraged to start at the beginning of the boards to read about the entire process.

Several boards invited participation by attendees, where community members had the option to answer the questions by adding sticky notes to the boards with their comments, fill out a paper copy of the survey, or scan a QR code to provide feedback through the online open house.

Attendees also had an opportunity to place stickers on the concept illustration for where they would like to have lighting, landscaping, seating and viewing areas, and artistic elements.

Approximately 50 people attended the open house. Thirty-seven people signed in, many of whom opted to receive project update notifications by email. Elected officials that attended the open house included: Corvallis City Councilor Tony Cadena, Corvallis City Councilor Jan Napack and County Commissioner Pat Malone. Various city and county staff, including members of the project's Key Interested Party group attended the event.

Benton County's County Engineer, Laurel Byer and ODOT Project Manager James Feldman, and two consultant project team members engaged in conversation with attendees, listened to their perspectives and answered questions. Project team members encouraged attendees to place dots on

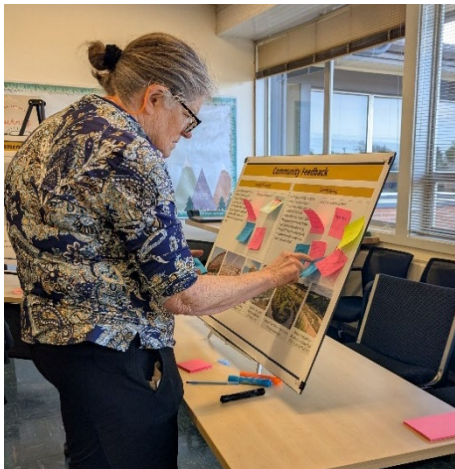
maps indicating where they would like various elements on the project and add sticky notes with comments to the boards. Most attendees contributed to the interactive poster board activities.

Outreach and Notification

The project team advertised the meeting by email, sending messages to community members and interested parties near the project area. An ODOT GovDelivery email notification went to about 7,500 people. The event flyer was available in English.

Event details were also posted on the project website, and project team members distributed fliers.

In addition to the in-person open house, the advertisement invited people to provide feedback through an online open house, which opened before the event. Quarter page fliers with a QR code were available for attendees to link to the online survey and share with their network. The online open house and survey were open through May 15.



1 Community member adds a comment to the display board.



2 ODOT project manager James Feldmann talks with two community members about the recommended design.



3 Approximately 50 people attended the open house.



4 Community members provide feedback and asked questions of consultant team member Cameron Grile.



5 Community member and ODOT project manager James Feldmann biked to the in-person open house.

Collected Comments

Summary of suggested placement of amenities

- Lighting
 - Bridge ends
 - Along bridge
 - Top and bottom of stairs
 - Two points of most curvature along loop
- Artistic Elements at bridge ends, top of stairs, bottom of stairs
- Seating/viewing area just east of bridge before the path loops north, picnic table inside the loop

Lighting comments

- If lights are required, use curfew, dimmable lights when pedestrians or bikes are detected
- Wildlife consideration - warm lighting and auto-dim if no peds/bikes
- No lights! Dark sky! Necessary for a wildlife- crepuscular wildlife especially
- Minimize lighting to path- avoid wildlife
- Shield lighting- no glare
- Shield lights to avoid glare and wildlife bother
- Minimize lighting that disturbs night sky and animals but optimize safety of pedestrians and cyclists
- Dark sky lighting/pedestrian-oriented
- Lights that point down to avoid nighttime light interference with stars and migrations. Notice the glare in the Woodburn example photo the White Street Bridge has tall glaring lights; otherwise the White Street Bridge lights are excellent.
- Low (< 2 ft) solar lamp lighting the light-colored pavement. Could be on the centerline of the path. Lamps should be independent, not wired together (like the lamps at Dollar Tree but better).

Seating/viewing area comments

- Wood for standalone seating. Concrete with wood for along retaining walls
- Make these skateboard proof
- High durability and low maintenance that don't block views
- Benches that won't burn

- Graffiti proof
- Prefer more wooden natural features
- Homeless unfriendly type of benches want to keep areas safe, great design and love the bridge idea

Artistic elements comments

- Yes to unique and decorative unless it has to be prefabricated for cost- savings
- Natural nature motif not urban or modern; blend with native landscape and contours
- Don't need lighting. Low pathway lights okay but not really needed at all
- Element about and by native population (e.g., Champinefu)

Landscaping comments

- Maybe a few benches along the way with interpretation
- Bamboo
- Landscaping should be native plants that align with the wetland
- Native plants, please
- Noise abatement with vegetation
- Wayfinding signs and information signs about native Oregon plant species
- Native plantings sensitive/ appropriate to ecosystem function/ improvement

General comments

- What happened to meeting number one? Is this online? (Feedback? Questions? Concerns?)
- The bridge is too expensive. Put the money towards the Albany/ Corvallis highway 20 bike path
- Could permeable pavement be used?
- The cost of the bridge is high. Why can't they use the new [signal] light that is being installed? Cheledin [school] is closed!
- We need more info on the approaches to/from both sides. Right now there's no access from either side.
- Glad to see projects like these are at least being designed. Would like more info on streets connecting on both sides (beyond bridge)
- How are we going to keep this area feeling safe? As compared to the path between Home Depot and downtown area that is not used by the community and doesn't feel family-friendly
- Beautiful!! Active, low-stress walkable -- enjoy!

- Good step towards creating a bike-able Corvallis/Albany.

Online Open House

The online open house provided community members with an opportunity to learn more about the project and complete a survey. Information about the open house, including a link to the project website, was distributed via the GovDelivery email list on July 24, August 6, and August 13. These emails reached approximately 7,500 recipients and achieved an average open rate of 30 percent. To maximize visibility, the August 13 email was resent on August 19 to those who had not previously opened it.

Between April 27 and May 15, the online Open House received 493 visits from 415 unique viewers. Most online participants accessed the site through direct links, while about 10 percent arrived via external referrals from news outlets like the *Corvallis Advocate* or through web-based email platforms. The website received high levels of engagement around August 22nd, coinciding with open house coverage in the *Corvallis Advocate* and *Corvallis Gazette Times*, where the project was highlighted and the website linked.

Most online attendees accessed the online open house via desktop computer, while about one third used mobile devices. Mobile participants exhibited a much higher bounce rate, suggesting that the open house was more user-friendly on desktop, or that computer users visited the site more intentionally.

By providing both online and in-person formats, the open house broadened community access to project information, increased visibility, and likely boosted survey participation, strengthening awareness among local community members.

Key Themes and Takeaways

Community feedback generally supported the proposed bridge concept and interest in associated amenities, with participants emphasizing the importance of balancing user safety, comfort, and aesthetics with environmental stewardship. Lighting was one of the most discussed topics, with many attendees recommending low-impact, pedestrian-oriented lighting that is shielded, downward-facing, dimmable, and sensitive to wildlife and dark-sky conditions. While some supported strategic lighting at bridge entrances, stairs, and key path locations, others preferred little to no lighting to minimize impacts on wildlife and the night sky.

Participants expressed a strong preference for amenities and design elements that reflect the site's natural setting. Native landscaping, vegetation that supports wetland functions, and opportunities for environmental interpretation were frequently recommended. Artistic elements were generally supported when they incorporate natural themes or local cultural and Indigenous connections. Seating and viewing areas were viewed positively, particularly if designed with durable, low-maintenance materials that preserve views and enhance safety. Additional feedback focused on the need for more information about connections to surrounding streets and pathways, concerns about project cost, and the importance of creating a safe, welcoming facility that encourages walking and bicycling between Albany and Corvallis. Overall, feedback indicated strong interest in a crossing that is attractive, environmentally sensitive, and well-integrated into the broader transportation network.

Appendix A – Boards with comments

Community Feedback

Lighting




I-5 Overpass Lighting (Woodburn, OR)
White Street Bridge (Quebec, Canada)

The pathway will meet minimum code requirements for lighting. Given this approach, do you have preferences for the type or style of lighting (for example, height, brightness, or character)?

Add your comments here!

Light the path down to avoid night-time bike light glare. Notice the Glau (ch) in the Woodburn Example Photo. The White Street Bridge has 1 foot glowing light over the white street bridge edge. No lights!

Shielded lighting - no glare

Minimize lighting to path - avoid wildlife

Minimize lighting that disturbs night sky & animals but optimize safety of pedestrians & cyclists

Dark sky lighting / pedestrian oriented

Shield lights to avoid glare & wildlife bother

No lights! Dark Sky! Necessary for wildlife - (crepuscular wildlife especially)

Seating / Viewing Area









What are your preferences for the type or style of seating and viewing areas?

Add your comments here!

Wood for stand alone seating. Concrete (w wood ___) for along ___

Picnic table inside the loop

High durability - low maintenance, non-view blocking

Prefer more wooden, natural

Bench that won't burn & graffiti-proof

Homeless unfriendly type of benches. Want to keep area safe - great design & love the bridge idea.

Make these skateboard proof

Lighting comments received were as follows:

- Shield lighting- no glare
- Minimize lighting to path- avoid wildlife
- Shield lights to avoid glare and bothering wildlife
- Minimize lighting that disturbs night sky and animals but optimize safety of pedestrians and cyclists
- Dark sky lighting/ Pedestrian oriented
- No lights! Dark sky! Necessary for wildlife- crepuscular wildlife especially

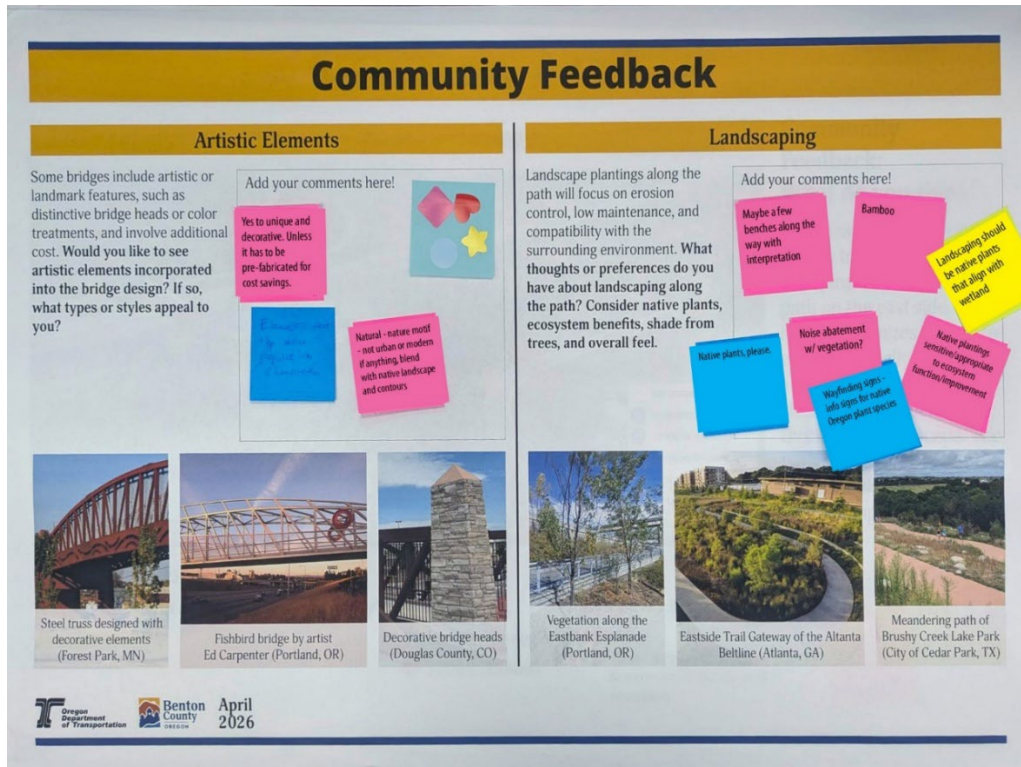
Seating/viewing area comments received were as follows:

- Wood for stand-alone seating. Concrete with wood for along path.
- Picnic table inside the loop
- High durability. Low maintenance non-view blocking seating

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- Bench that won't burn and graffiti proof
- Prefer more wooden natural look
- Homeless-unfriendly type of benches want to keep area safe- great design and love the bridge idea



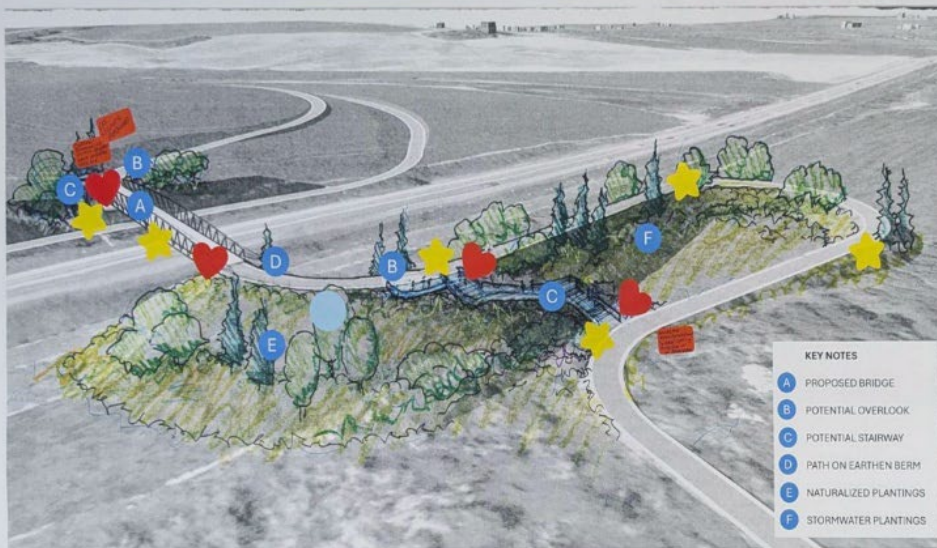
Artistic elements comments received were as follows:

- Yes to unique and decorative, unless it has to be prefabricated for cost savings
- Natural motif, not urban or modern. If anything, blend with native landscape and contours

Landscaping comments received were as follows:

- Maybe a few benches along the way with interpretation
- Bamboo
- Native plants please
- Noise abatement with vegetation
- Way finding signs- informational signs for native Oregon plant species
- Landscaping should be native plants that align with wetland
- Native plantings sensitive/ appropriate to ecosystem function/improvement

Recommended Design



Community Feedback: What do you think?

The recommended design is for a truss bridge with a sweeping curve approach path on the east side. This design minimizes impact to environmentally sensitive areas while having a gentle slope that meanders through the landscape. The path may include lighting, an overlook, seating, landscaping and artistic elements.

Path Amenities

What types of path amenities would you enjoy?

- ★ Lighting
 - Seating/Viewing Area
 - ♥ Artistic Elements
 - Landscaping
 - Other
- Please note which other features you'd like the path to include.



April 2026

Don't need lighting - low pathway lights ok but not really needed at all

The comments people posted on the Next Steps board were:

- Don't need lighting – low pathway lights okay but not really needed at all

The “What type of path amenities would you enjoy?” question received:

- 6 lighting
- 1 seating/viewing area
- 4 artistic elements

Next Steps

General Comments

Do you have any remaining questions, comments, or ideas about the bridge or pathway? Please share anything else you'd like the project team to consider as design moves forward.

Add your comments here!

Cost of bridge is too expensive. Put the money towards the Albany/Corvallis Hwy 20 bike path.

permeable pavements?

The cost of the bridge is high. Why can't they use the new light that is being installed? Cheladin is closed!

What happened in meeting #1? Is this online? (feedback, concerns, questions)

We need more info on the approaches to the bridge from both sides. Right now there is no access from either side.

Glad to see projects like these are at least being designed. Connection to streets on both sides (beyond bridge)

How are we going to keep this area feeling safe? As compared to the path between home depot and downtown area that is not used by the community and doesn't feel family friendly.

Beautiful!! Active, low stress walkable- enjoy!

Thank you for visiting the North Benton County Community Pathways Open House #2

Visit the project website at:
tinyurl.com/Comm-Pathways

Provide your comments in-person or through the online survey tool.

The online open house is available through May 15.

Please share with people you think would be interested!

Scan QR code to view the project website on your mobile phone

Planning	Design		
Alternatives Evaluation/Project Design Plan	Concept Development and Refinement		
Summer/Fall 2025	Winter '25/26	Spring 2026	Summer/Fall 2026

Legend: Key Interested Parties Online and in-person Open House Community Survey Board of Commissioners

April 2026

- Spring 2026: Online and In-person Open House #2
- Summer 2026: Final Key Interested Party Meeting
- Summer 2026: Complete environmental review and conceptual design
- Summer/Fall 2026: Present finalized work to Board of Commissioners

The comments people posted on the Next Steps board were:

- What happened in meeting number one? Is this online? (Feedback, concerns and questions)
- Casa bridge is too expensive. Put the money towards the Albany/ Corvallis highway 20 bike path.
- We need more information on the approaches to the bridge from both sides. Right now there is no access from either side.
- Permeable pavement?
- The cost of the bridge is high. Why can't they use the new light that is being installed? Chrledin is closed!
- How are we going to keep this area feeling safe? As compared to the path between home Depot and downtown area that is not used by the community and doesn't feel family-friendly.
- Glad to see projects like these are at least being designed. (Connection to streets on both sides beyond bridge)
- Beautiful!! Active, low stress walkable- enjoy!

Appendix B – Communication Materials – Online Open House hand-out

This 1/4 page handout was available at the in-person open house:

North Benton County Community Pathways Open House #2

Check out our online open house, live now through May 15, by scanning the QR code → with your smartphone camera or go online to this URL: tinyurl.com/Comm-Pathways



Thanks for joining us!

