

The I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project will Improve Options for People Walking, Biking and Rolling

March 6, 2024

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Travel Needs

The Boone Bridge is the only Willamette River bridge crossing for almost 15 miles in either direction.

Currently, if people want to walk, bike or roll across the river, their only option is to use the Boone Bridge, unprotected next to fast-moving traffic. The I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project plans to create a new path for bicyclists and pedestrians across the Willamette River so we can improve travel options with better access for people walking, biking and rolling in this area.

The project is evaluating two options for bicyclists and pedestrians. One option is to create a separated path on the new Boone Bridge, which means a dedicated path with a barrier from the interstate traffic. The second option is to work with the City of Wilsonville to build the French Prairie Bridge, a separate bridge only for pedestrians and bicyclists. The City of Wilsonville is looking at locations between the Boone Bridge and the existing railroad bridge about 1/3 mile to the west.



This view of the Boone Bridge southbound lanes shows how currently there is little room and protection for bicyclists to cross safely.

Hearing from the Community

Last fall, we conducted a survey to get input from the public about these two options. We received a total of 346 survey responses, reflecting a variety of community voices.

The survey asked whether people prefer a separated path on the new Boone Bridge or the French Prairie Bridge. The majority (65%) expressed a preference for the French Prairie Bridge. We also asked how people might use the new connection. The most common responses were: biking, walking or rolling for fun (366 responses) and biking, walking or rolling for everyday tasks (136 responses). Whether improving access to recreation or creating options for travel for everyday needs, the survey results made clear there is a desire to have alternative ways of getting across the bridge besides driving. The responses received will be used to inform the alternatives analysis this summer. The preliminary results will be shared with the public in the fall for further input.

What's Next

As we work through the early planning Project Environmental Linkages or <u>PEL phase</u>, we will be working closely with the City of Wilsonville and the broader community on evaluating these options to improve travel options for walking, biking





and rolling across the Willamette River. When a preferred option is identified later this year, we will include it in a proposed project design that will then go through an environmental review phase prior to any construction. As outlined in the timeline below, funding has not yet been identified for the project's environmental review phase or construction.



Learn More and Stay Connected

Learn more about the project by visiting the <u>project website</u>. To stay up to date on project news and ways to get involved, <u>sign up for updates</u>.

