



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TIM FREEMAN, CHRIS BOICE & TOM KRESS

REGION 3 - SOUTHWEST OREGON
DARRIN NEAVOLL, INTERIM REGION MANAGER

Joint Release with the Douglas County Commissioners and Oregon Department of Transportation Region 3
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 28, 2022

Construction Begins on Oakland Bridge Replacement Project

(Douglas County, Ore.) Douglas County Commissioners, Tim Freeman, Chris Boice and Tom Kress, along with the Douglas County Public Works Department and Oregon Department of Transportation Region 3 (ODOT), would like to announce the beginning of the construction phase for the Oakland Bridge Project. Working in partnership with Douglas County, ODOT will manage the bridge replacement project, and work with their contractor, [Farline Bridge, Inc.](#) of Stayton, Oregon, to build a completely new bridge and alignment, just north of the existing 1925 bridge. The new Oakland Bridge will feature two lanes of traffic, wider shoulders and allow for pedestrian traffic. This project is part of a two-bridge replacement bundle that also includes the replacement of the Conn-Ford (Melrose) Bridge west of Roseburg, which is expected to begin construction later this Spring.

The Oakland Bridge (AKA the Calapooya Creek Bridge) is located on the Oakland-Shady Highway (Old Highway 99 North) at MP 1.08, at the northwest corner of the town of Oakland (NE 1st Street), where it takes traffic over Calapooya Creek and the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad. The bridge is a vital link to Interstate 5 for area residents and tourists. It was determined several years ago that the Oakland Bridge, which was constructed in 1925 had exceeded its useful lifespan. The existing bridge has a very narrow deck, which is currently limited to a single lane with traffic controlled by a signal at each end. This results in frequent delays and bottlenecks. The 1925 bridge also requires frequent repairs, so, without replacement, it would continue to deteriorate beyond the point where routine maintenance would be enough to keep it open for traffic.

The 1925 Oakland Bridge will remain open to traffic until the new bridge is completed. Most construction will take place outside of the travel lanes, though some intermittent lane and shoulder closures may be necessary. For the first three weeks of February 2022, the contractor will be moving equipment to the work zone and clearing trees and brush near both ends of the bridge. Utility companies will also be working in the area.

Through a cooperative effort by the Douglas County Commissioners, Douglas County Public Works and Federal partners, in 2019, Douglas County was awarded a grant of \$16,495,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program, which is a part of the 2019/20 [Moving Forward Act](#), for the two-bridge bundle. The remaining funding will come from Douglas County and State sources.

“The vast majority of the bridges in Douglas County were built in the 1950’s and 1960’s, and the Oakland Bridge is much, much older than that! Most of our bridges have a lifespan that has already been far exceeded. They are in dire need of major repair or replacement. The safety of our residents is a high priority and we were elated to receive this grant, and be able to supplement this project with county funding,” commented Commissioner Kress.

We are asking motorists to watch for intermittent lane and shoulder closures. However, any delays will likely be brief, and flaggers will provide traffic control as needed. Please note that the road construction could impact your drive time. Safety is always a priority for the motoring public and we are asking motorists to use caution as they travel in this area and utilize the detours when possible. ODOT will be notifying the public prior to any road closures or other major traffic impacts. You can visit their [GovDelivery page](#) to sign up for e-mail updates. Or you can visit the project website at www.OaklandOregonBridge.com.

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