Open House

OR 38 Scottsburg Bridge Replacement Project

January 11, 2017

What is the problem?

The Scottsburg Bridge requires a variety of costly repairs. Additionally, the bridge was opened in 1929, when most vehicles were small and speeds low. The bridge's narrow lanes and tight corners at both ends are less than ideal for modern traffic.

1929

2017

Replacing bridge is the best solution

A new bridge could better accommodate modern traffic and would be more likely to withstand a natural disaster than the current structure.

As a result, ODOT is designing a replacement bridge in the event that construction funding becomes available. A replacement bridge is expected to cost between $25 million and $40 million, depending on the style of structure.

The new bridge will be designed according to modern standards. Most other details of the new bridge have yet to be determined. Due to the cost of maintaining two structures, the old bridge would be removed.

Because of the high cost, a new bridge cannot be funded through the state's normal bridge construction program. Funding must be identified by other means.

If funding is provided, construction could begin as early as 2019.

What if there is no money for replacement?

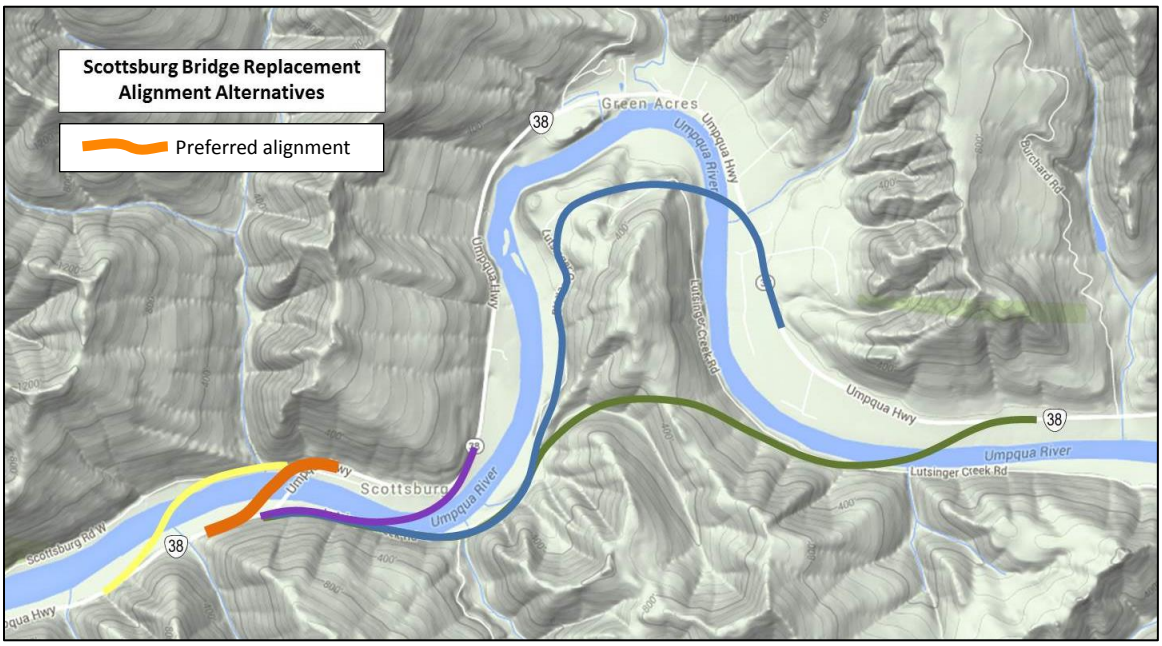
If funding cannot be found for a replacement, ODOT will move ahead with repairs to the existing bridge. These repairs would include:

- sandblasting and repainting the green steel truss,
- repairing any bad steel sections,
- repairing and repaving the deck,
- replacing the concrete railing,
- repairing the concrete sections of the bridge, and
- strengthening the bridge to better withstand earthquakes.

However, such repairs wouldn't address the more fundamental problems with the bridge—the narrow width, sharp approach curves, and low overhead clearance.

Repair costs are estimated at approximately $8-10 million.

Where would a new bridge be located?



ODOT believes the best approach is to build the new bridge just downstream of the existing structure.

Several other locations have been considered, but each would cost significantly more. Some would also have a greater impact on the Scottsburg community.

A new bridge is about more than traffic

Scottsburg Park: The proposed bridge will cross the east end of Scottsburg Park, but will be located a half mile away from the park entrance. ODOT is working with the Douglas County Parks Department to make sure impacts are minimal.

River Navigation: ODOT is working with the Oregon State Marine Board and the U.S. Coast Guard to make sure all requirements are met for boating under the new bridge once it's completed, as well as for safe river passage during construction.

Fish Passage: The proposed bridge will reduce the number of concrete piers in the river, resulting in less impact to fish passage.

Preparing for the next disaster

The Umpqua River during the 1964 Flood

The bottom of the existing Scottsburg Bridge sits at the 100-year flood level. The proposed bridge will be at least 3 feet above that elevation. The new bridge will also be designed to better withstand large coastal earthquakes.

Tell us what you think

As part of the design of a new bridge, ODOT historians would like to learn more from the community about the historic bridge, as well as the Scottsburg area, its history and development. Please take a second to share memories and offer your thoughts on the old bridge and your historic community.

Where can you find out more?

ODOT believes the best projects are built in partnership with the local community. You can learn more about the project at *www.ScottsburgBridge.com*.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please call or send us an e-mail.

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Thank you for visiting our Open House!