



# Project Purpose and Need

Community Task Force Meeting  
July 31, 2006

# NEPA Framework

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions
- This project must comply with NEPA requirements
  - Funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
  - Will likely seek federal dollars for implementation
  - Will likely need federal permits for construction

# Purpose and Need Statement

- Fundamental NEPA requirement
- Clarifies the expected outcome of public expenditure
- Justifies the expenditure
- What we are trying to accomplish and why we think it is necessary
- Three parts—purpose, need, goals

# Project Purpose

- Defines the transportation problem to be solved in one sentence
- Does not identify a solution
- Allows consideration of multiple modes and alternatives

# Project Need

- Establishes indisputable evidence that the problem exists
- Should be factually and numerically based
- As specific as possible—can evolve as more detail is developed

# Goals

- Broad vision statements intended to influence the character of the project solution
- Non-transportation issues to be addressed by the project--livability, environmental protection, local plan compliance, etc.---are defined as goals

## How We'll Use the Purpose and Need Statement

- Foundation of evaluation criteria
- Guides development of alternatives

# Planning Framework for Project

- Metro's 1999 South Willamette River Crossing Study recommendations:
  - Preserve existing Sellwood Bridge or replace as a 2-lane bridge with better service for bike and pedestrian travel
  - Consider improvements to the Ross Island and I-205 bridges through a separate study
  - Increase motor vehicle capacity on regional facilities, such as McLoughlin and Highway 224
  - Mitigate traffic on Tacoma Street, Highway 99E in Milwaukie and on A Avenue and Highway 43 in Lake Oswego

## Planning Framework for Project (cont'd)

- Metro's 1999 South Willamette River Crossing Study recommended against:
  - Replacing Sellwood Bridge with a 4-lane crossing
  - Full rehabilitation of the existing Sellwood Bridge
  - Using Sellwood Bridge for bikes and pedestrians only
  - Bridge crossings in Lake Oswego, Marylhurst and Milwaukee

## Planning Framework for Project (cont'd)

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Portland Transportation System Plan both identify a project to implement the recommendations of the Metro Study

# Planning Framework for Project (cont'd)

- NEPA requires:
  - Consistency with existing local plans and policies
  - Validation of conclusions from earlier studies leading to those plans and policies in relation to any changed conditions that may have occurred since the studies were completed

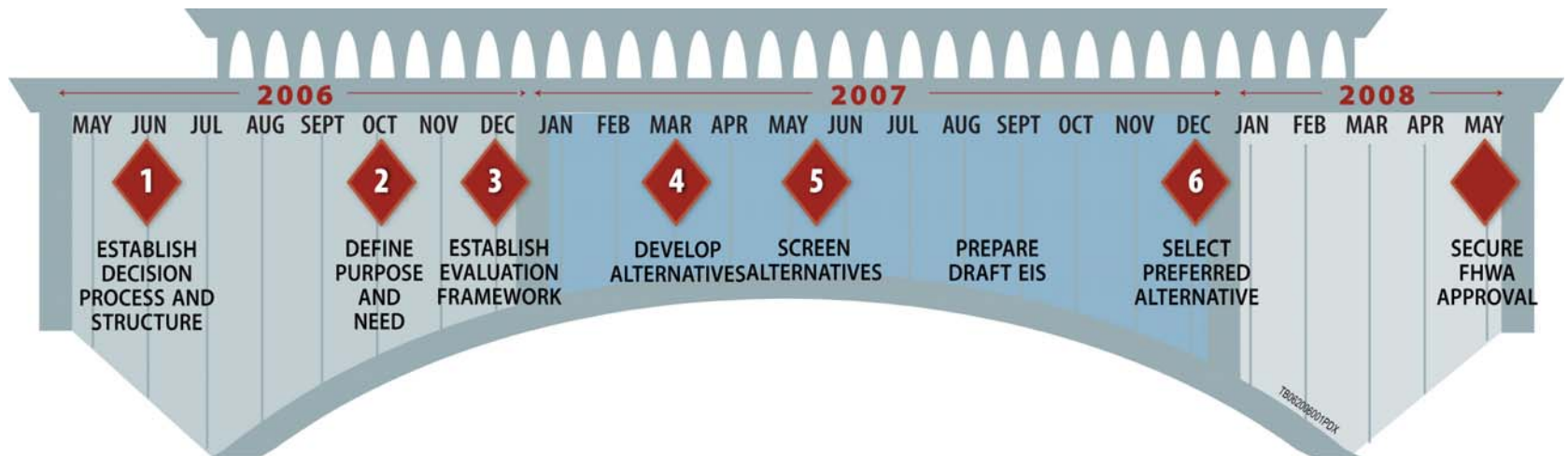
# Draft Purpose Statement

- The purpose of the proposed action is to provide a safe Sellwood Bridge with connections that accommodate existing and future travel demands and mobility needs in the existing bridge corridor

# Needs to be Addressed

- Deteriorating structural conditions
- Substandard roadway conditions
- Substandard bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Restricted public transportation operation
- Impaired freight movement
- Growing travel demand and congestion
- (Note: safety is included in each category)

# Sellwood Bridge Project Decision Process



# Process for Developing Purpose and Need Statement

- Tonight
  - Review issues to ensure comprehensive list of needs
  - Discuss structural conditions
  - Discuss roadway conditions
  - Discuss bicycle and pedestrian conditions
- September Meeting
  - Discuss public transportation
  - Discuss freight movement
  - Discuss travel demand and congestion
  - Discuss bridge rehabilitation vs. replacement
  - Review draft Purpose and Need Statement
- October Meeting
  - Review revised Purpose and Need Statement
  - Recommend Purpose and Need Statement