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**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

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## **Rojo de Steffey announces Sellwood Bridge Community Task Force**

Through the leadership of Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners has selected twenty individuals to serve on a Community Task Force that will help identify a long-term solution to fix or replace the Sellwood Bridge.

Task force members were selected from a group of sixty-nine applicants. The task force includes: Barbara Barber, Jason Barbour, Gary Barth, Gary Berger, Tom Brown, Bill Dickey, Elliot Eki, John Fyre, Dorothy Gage, Laura Jackson, Ken Love, Richard Marantz, Robert Mawson, Tina Nunez, Scott Thayer, Lidwien Rahman, Angela Timmen, Robert Wilhelm, Jr., Brian Wilson and Sharon Wood-Wortman.

The task force includes leaders of neighborhoods on both sides of the bridge as well as representatives of local and regional business groups and advocates for different bridge user groups, including commuters, freight and transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The group will begin meeting this summer. The task force will select criteria that will be used to evaluate different alternatives. Then the task force will suggest alternatives and evaluate and rank them before recommending a preferred alternative.

"We were encouraged that so many people stepped forward to help us find a solution to this problem," said Commissioner Rojo de Steffey, who has led efforts to secure funds for the project. "Our biggest challenge is to find a solution that has broad community support. I believe our task force includes a talented and diverse group of citizens who are willing to work together toward this common goal."

The task force is scheduled to recommend a preferred alternative in early 2008. The alternative will provide a long-term fix for the Sellwood Bridge, which is reaching the end of its service life. Local jurisdictions are scheduled to vote on the preferred alternative in 2008.

Multnomah County maintains the Sellwood Bridge, five other Willamette River bridges, and more than 300 miles of roads.

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