



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

Release: October 7, 2008

Contact: Michael Pullen, Public Affairs Office, 503-988-6804

Sellwood Bridge task force meeting

The Community Task Force for the Sellwood Bridge Project will meet on Monday, October 13 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at SMILE Station, 8210 SE 13th Avenue.

The agenda will include an update on the project, which will identify a preferred alternative to provide a long-term fix for the Sellwood Bridge. A draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the impacts of five build alternatives and a no build alternative is expected to be published in early November, kicking off a 45-day public comment period. The alternatives include bridge replacements and rehabilitations of the existing bridge, which is reaching the end of its service life.

Also on the agenda are a summary of the alternatives studied in the draft Environmental Impact Statement and an update on public involvement opportunities scheduled for the comment period. These include public briefings, an online survey and a public hearing.

In early 2009 the task force will recommend a preferred alternative to the project's Policy Advisory Group, made up of elected and appointed officials. After the Policy Group makes a recommendation, the preferred alternative must be adopted by Multnomah County, the City of Portland and Metro before the Federal Highway Administration can issue a final approval.

The Community Task Force includes citizens representing different interests in the Sellwood Bridge Project. Task force meetings are open to the public and include time for public comment.

Multnomah County maintains the Sellwood Bridge, five other Willamette River bridges, and more than 300 miles of roads. For more information, visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.

###