



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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Meeting to preview results of Sellwood Bridge alternatives study

A meeting on Monday, October 27 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at OMSI, 1945 SE Water Ave. will include a briefing on a technical study of five alternatives being considered to replace or rehabilitate the Sellwood Bridge. Project team members will brief a combined gathering of the project's Community Task Force and Policy Advisory Group, two groups that will soon be deliberating and then identifying a locally preferred alternative. The latter group includes elected and appointed representatives of jurisdictions with an interest in the Sellwood Bridge. The meeting is open to the public and includes time for public comment.

Last year five alternatives were chosen to be evaluated in a draft environmental impact statement (EIS). Monday's meeting will review key differences between five Build alternatives and a No Build Alternative that were identified by technical experts. These include significant differences in cost and impacts to residences, businesses, parks, transportation, and the local economy. The agenda will include a review of the alternatives, an overview of the draft EIS, and next steps in the project. Staff will also describe how some alternatives could be constructed in phases, if funding is not available to build the entire project in one phase.

The draft EIS will be released for public comment in early November. A 45-day public comment period will seek public input on the document as well as public preferences for the locally preferred alternative. The current planning project will lead to a decision on a long-term fix for the Sellwood Bridge, which is reaching the end of its service life. The Community Task Force and Policy Advisory Group are scheduled to recommend a locally preferred alternative for jurisdictional approval in February 2009. Construction cannot begin before federal approval, final design and a funding plan are in place.

A Sellwood Bridge "alternative" is a concept that includes a bridge alignment, cross-section, westside interchange, and rehabilitation or replacement option.

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.

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