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NEWS RELEASE

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Sellwood Bridge task force meeting on Nov. 17

The Community Task Force for the Sellwood Bridge Project will meet on Monday, November 17 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at SMILE Station, 8210 SE 13th Avenue.

The agenda will include a discussion of the alternatives that have been proposed to provide a long-term solution to the problems of the Sellwood Bridge. Five build alternatives and one no build option have been analyzed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now available for public review. The build alternatives include three bridge replacements and two rehabilitations of the existing bridge, which is reaching the end of its service life.

In January the task force will recommend its preferred alternative to the project's Policy Advisory Group, comprised of elected and appointed officials. The preferred alternative recommended by the Policy Group must be adopted by Multnomah County, the City of Portland and Metro before the Federal Highway Administration can issue a final approval.

The November 17 task force meeting is open to the public and will include time for public comment. However, in accordance with federal policy, only written public comments about the draft EIS may be submitted at the meeting. Forms for this purpose will be available. The formal public comment period for the draft EIS began November 7 and ends December 22.

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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