



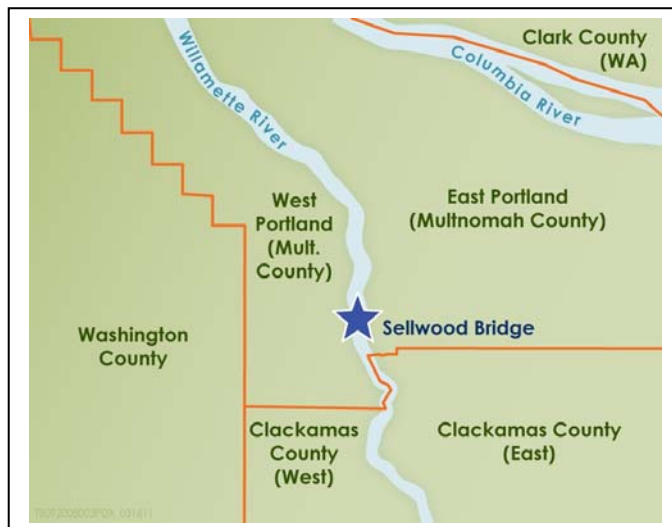
Who Uses the Sellwood Bridge?

Information on who uses the Sellwood Bridge comes from the regional transportation model developed by Metro, the regional government responsible for creating the Regional Transportation Plan. The model that Metro developed is used throughout the tri-county region to plan every major transportation infrastructure project, including highway and transit projects. The model accurately estimates existing traffic volumes on roadways throughout the Portland metropolitan area and predicts future traffic levels.

In developing the regional model, Metro surveyed 6,000 households on where they live, work, shop and recreate. Existing and forecast estimates for population and employment are included in the model. The combined data is used to create a model of trips within the region. The model is reviewed by outside experts and validated regularly against observed data.

Working with the model, current trips across the Sellwood Bridge can be divided into these groups, representing trips that begin or end in different parts of the region:

Trips Between	Vehicle Trips (percent)
East and west sides of Portland	17
Portland and Washington County	11
Clackamas and Washington counties	13
Clackamas County and Portland	52
East and west sides of Clackamas County	7



The Sellwood Bridge is located close to the boundary between Multnomah and Clackamas counties. Its location and the lack of nearby bridges make it an important part of the region's transportation system.

Trip Trends

The model confirms that the Sellwood Bridge is a regionally significant link in the transportation system. Several factors make it important to more than one jurisdiction:

- **Location:** The bridge is in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. But it is within one mile of Clackamas County, so it is a popular crossing for many Clackamas County residents. Also, the bridge is near northwestern Clackamas County, the most urbanized part of the county.
- **Imbalance between Jobs and Housing:** Clackamas County has more residents than jobs, compared to Multnomah and Washington counties. Each morning, many residents of Clackamas County commute to jobs in Multnomah and Washington counties. On weekday mornings, twice as many vehicles cross the bridge going west than east, as people commute to jobs on the west side of the bridge. Metro's model shows that this trend is expected to continue in the future.
- **Lack of Alternate River Crossings:** The Sellwood Bridge is the only bridge available to commuters in a 12-mile stretch of the Willamette River between the Ross Island Bridge in southeast Portland and the Interstate 205 bridge in West Linn. The I-205 bridge is nearly 10 miles from the Sellwood Bridge. It is currently the only Willamette River bridge in Clackamas County open to commuters. The lack of other river crossings in Clackamas County leads to many residents of the county using the Sellwood Bridge, even for trips that start and end in Clackamas County.

Current and Forecast Bridge Trips

Seventy-two percent (72%) of current vehicle-trips across the Sellwood Bridge begin or end in Clackamas County. By the year 2030 Metro forecasts that this figure will increase to 76%. The statistic for 2030 is important because the federal government requires the Sellwood Bridge project to forecast bridge use several decades into the future.

It should be noted that the model also tells us that 80% of bridge trips begin or end in Portland. The dominant commute pattern indicates that many of these Portland trips involve a Clackamas County commuter driving to a job in Portland.



Sellwood Trip Map

Metro's transportation experts developed a map to show the travel patterns of trips across the Sellwood Bridge. In the map above, the Sellwood Bridge is the thick red line across the center

of the map. The key shows that the thicker the line for a road or bridge on the map, the more trips across the Sellwood Bridge it carries. Trips across the bridge represent the thickest line (symbolizing more than 10,000 trips), followed by approach roads SE Tacoma St. and Highway 43, carrying more than 8,000 trips.

As one would expect, the map shows that trips across the bridge flow from arterials that fan out east and west of the bridge, irrespective of city and county boundaries.

For More Information

The information in the trips table on page 1 comes from the Sellwood Bridge Project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (Chapter 3 Transportation, page 3.4, "Road Performance - Traffic Levels" and table 3.1-1 (Travel Markets of Existing Sellwood Bridge Users). See: http://www.sellwoodbridge.org/FEIS/05_Ch3.pdf.

For more information on Metro's transportation modeling, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/transportationmodeling.