



MULTNOMAH  
COUNTY

# the Sellwood Winter 2016 Bridge

## ▶ We made it! New Sellwood Bridge opens Tuesday, March 1

The new Sellwood Bridge is scheduled to open to traffic on Tuesday, March 1 by 6 a.m.

"I am so excited," said Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury. "I share the anticipation of all the bridge neighbors as this major project nears completion."

The county's biggest transportation project in decades has faced many challenges, including:

- ▶ *Securing funds*
- ▶ *Designing around an active landslide*
- ▶ *Building a bridge very close to homes and businesses*
- ▶ *Keeping the bridge and Highway 43 open to traffic during construction*

Bridge users, neighbors and all Multnomah County residents deserve a pat on the back

for their patience during construction and their support for the long-awaited project. Together, "we made it!"

We hope many of you will join us at the bridge opening celebration on Saturday, February 27 from noon to 4 pm (see story on back).

As the story inside this newsletter explains, a lot of construction still remains after the new bridge opens to traffic. Construction is scheduled to be complete by Thanksgiving 2016. When it is, Portland will have its first Willamette River bridge open to private vehicles that is designed to withstand a Cascadia Zone subduction earthquake.

Multnomah County is the lead agency for the Sellwood Bridge project. Partner agencies include the Portland Bureau of Transportation, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

## ▶ New bridge will include benches designed and built by local students

The new Sellwood Bridge may be the first bridge in the country to feature a permanent element designed and built by high school students.

The bridge will have four viewing platforms over the river – called belvederes – where bicyclists and pedestrians can pause to enjoy views from the bridge.

Each belvedere will have a semi-circular bench made of juniper wood and steel designed and fabricated by local high school students. The students attend the ACE Academy (ACE = Architecture, Construction and Engineering), a public charter school drawing students from five districts. ACE worked with Centennial High School's metal fabrication program. ACE is in Northeast Portland and Centennial is in Gresham.

Students in the two programs worked with staff from the design and engineering firm T.Y. Lin International and Multnomah County on the bench design. The benches are a key element of the project's school outreach program, which is led by Lois D.

Cohen Associates, a community engagement firm and sub-consultant to T.Y. Lin.

The schools program worked with 12 local schools during the project's design and construction phases. Two thousand students in grades 2 through 12 learned about the

project in classrooms, shop classes, and in field trips to the bridge. The program used the bridge project to provide lessons about civic engagement, as well as the planning, design and construction of a major transportation project. Students were exposed to a range of new careers.

The benches will be installed this spring. A prototype will be on view in one of the belvederes at the February 27 opening celebration.



Students share the bench design with Multnomah County Commissioners.

Congratulations to these students who worked on the benches: Rebecca Fast, Taylor Lehman, Jesse Martinez, Nate Porter, Kody Thompson, and Ethan Wells from ACE Academy. Centennial High School students are Jose Calderon, Braden Dukart, Aryan Niroumand, Kaleb Paschall, Seth Townsend, and Franky Villa.

# Work remaining after March 1 bridge opening

While the March 1 opening of the new Sellwood Bridge to traffic marks a major milestone, a lot more construction work is scheduled this year. Much of the remaining work could not be performed until the new bridge opens.

Here's a look at remaining work before the project is completed around Thanksgiving 2016. Schedules are subject to change:

## Taylor's Ferry at Highway 43 Turnaround

The turnaround for bridge traffic to access Highway 43 south will be removed in August after the left turn from the bridge to Highway 43 south opens.

## Macadam Bay/Freeman Motors Driveway

The new driveway is open but an archaeological find has delayed completion of some elements. Work is expected to be completed in March/April.

**Highway 43 Final Paving** - Scheduled for August.

## Map Key

-  New bridge/street
-  Existing street
-  Bike/pedestrian path
-  Detour bridge
-  Work bridge
-  Trolley
-  Swale

## Northbound Highway 43 Through Lane Under Bridge

This lane is expected to open in May.



## Left Turn from Sellwood Bridge to Highway 43 South

This turn movement is expected to open in late August. It will eliminate the need for drivers to travel north and turn around at Taylor's Ferry.

Macadam Bay Floating Home Community

## Westside Trail

The westside trail from the bridge to Willamette Park is expected to open in April. The wide trail will follow the trolley corridor and SW Miles Place. It will be a major improvement compared to the old trail along the east side of busy Highway 43.



## Willamette River

## Removal of Detour Bridge Truss

The concrete features of the 90-year old Sellwood Bridge truss spans (deck, sidewalks and railings) will be removed in March and April. The steel truss will be disassembled and removed in May and June.

## Removal of Detour Bridge Piers

The piers and protective fenders will be removed from mid-June to late August. The river piles can only be removed during the in-water work period this summer.

## Removal of Work Bridges

The timber decks will be removed this spring. Pile removal will happen during the in-water work period starting in July.

## South Sidewalk of New Bridge

The south sidewalk will open in November because the section on the east approach cannot be built until the north half of the east approach opens to traffic.

## North Half of East Approach

The north half of the east approach could not be built until the east end of the detour bridge was removed. The contractor will drill foundations for the north half of the approach, build columns, install girders, deck and sidewalk. The north half will open in October. Until then, the east approach will have a narrow curving section with one shared use sidewalk on the north side.

## Swales

Bioswales to treat stormwater from the bridge will be installed on the east and west sides of the river from August to November. These areas are currently in the contractor's staging area.

## Eastside Condominiums

Restoration and improvements to condo complexes on each side of the east approach are scheduled from February through October. Areas of the complexes were part of the project's work zone.

## Miscellaneous Bridge Work

From time to time, the contractor will be working on the new bridge to complete various work, including punch list items.

## Public Art Installation

Mikyong Kim's series of 23 *Stratum* sculptures will be installed on the north and south sides of SE Tacoma St. between SE 6th Ave. and SE Grand Ave. in May (see story below).



SE Spokane St

SE Tacoma St

## Tacoma & 6th Ave. Traffic Signal

The new signal should be activated in November, after final lane striping and completion of the east approach.

## Stratum Public Art Project

The various components making up the new public art for the Sellwood neighborhood are coming together.

The footings are poured. The pavers are in. The sculpture fabrication is underway at Art & Design Works in Cornelius. Expect a celebration this Spring of Mikyong Kim's *Stratum*, a public art project funded with City of Portland Percent for Art dollars.

Twenty-three 14-ft tall stainless steel sculptures inspired by the area's geology will grace both sides of SE Tacoma St. between the bridge and SE 6th Ave., defining the street edge and acting as a gateway environment both into the Sellwood neighborhood and onto the new Sellwood Bridge.

Color gradations on each of the sculpture's surfaces will be skillfully applied by Art & Design Works. The richly patinaed surfaces are inspired by the geologic and natural phenomena of the Willamette River Valley. The end result will be a graduated blending of colors that convey warmth and naturalism.

Kim, an award-winning international landscape architect and artist, and Bryan Chou, her artistic partner in the project, have completed projects from civic gardens and municipal playgrounds to large scale parks and institutional master plans. She was selected by a panel of local artists, community representatives and project team members in May 2012. See more of her work at [myk-d.com](http://myk-d.com).



▲ New Sellwood Bridge opens March 1

Learn more at [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org)



## Goodbye to the old: Old Sellwood Bridge closes February 25



### Old Bridge celebration: Thursday, February 25, 7:30-8:30 pm

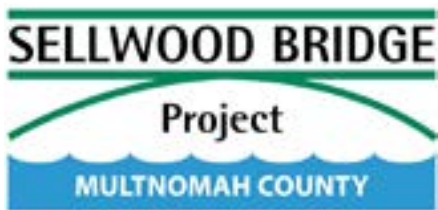
On Thursday night February 25, fans of the old Sellwood Bridge will have one last chance to say goodbye. The old bridge will permanently close to traffic that day at 7 pm. From 7:30 – 8:30 pm, residents

can walk across the 90-year old bridge one last time to say goodbye. Bring your flashlights, electric candles, and phone lights for this candlelight event.

Participants should assemble on Grand Avenue off of Spokane street (near the bridge's north sidewalk) no earlier than 7 pm. The procession starts at 7:30 pm. We'll have time to walk from east to west

and back again. The bridge will need to be cleared by 8:30 pm so that work to set up the new bridge for traffic can begin.

While the traffic shift to the new bridge is a significant milestone, bridge and interchange work will continue through November of 2016 (see inside for details on remaining work).



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## Sellwood Bridge Opening Event

Saturday, February 27, Noon to 4 pm

Read more inside or at [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org)



## Hello to the new: New Sellwood Bridge opens to traffic March 1

### Community celebration Saturday, February 27, noon to 4 pm

After years of construction, the Sellwood Bridge Project has reached a major milestone - and you are invited to a celebration!

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6 am, the new bridge will open to traffic so that contractors can begin to remove the detour (old) bridge. The old bridge will close to all modes of traffic (motor vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians) on Thursday, February 25 at 7 pm for four days while the contractor sets up the new bridge for traffic.

The community is invited to a celebration on the new bridge on Saturday, February 27. The new bridge opens for the free, family-friendly event at noon. An opening

ceremony and ribbon cutting will start the celebration around 1 pm, followed by the "Through the Decades" parade.

Food carts, retail and non-profit booths will be located on the bridge for the party. There will be entertainment on the main stage and along the bridge, and a few surprises. The first to arrive will receive a Sellwood Bridge lapel pin to commemorate the day. Due to limited parking, Sellwood neighbors are encouraged to walk or bike to the event. Bicycle parking will be provided at the east end of the bridge. Dress warm and bring an umbrella!

The bridge opening celebration is generously sponsored by the four companies that have been most involved with

designing, managing, and building the project: CH2M, Inc., David Evans and Associates, Inc., the Slayden-Sundt Joint Venture, and T.Y. Lin International. Special thanks to members of SMILE (the Sellwood Moreland Improvement League) and the Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance for their support for the celebration.

