

# FRIDAY MEMO

March 10, 2006

1. Multnomah County staff is making the rounds of Milwaukie neighborhood meetings to provide information on the Sellwood Bridge Project and to encourage participation from people living in communities that will be impacted by the outcome. Attached is a fact sheet and information on the Community Task Force.
2. Lindsey Nesbitt's last day was Thursday March 9. The recruitment is still open for her replacement. At this time the following positions are currently open: Utility Worker I in Water, Associate Planner, Civil Engineer, and Police Officer with Traffic Officer certifications.
3. During February--typically our slowest month--the Building Department processed permit applications with a total value of more than 5 million dollars. Projects included the new King Road Safeway; the North Clackamas Parks ball fields, a half million-dollar renovation of the old State Farm building at the corner of 224 and Freeman Way, three new single-family residences, as well as a number of smaller remodels and additions. This brings the total new valuation for this fiscal year to approximately \$20,000,000 with four months to go. Over the last five years total permit valuation has averaged about \$11,000,000 per year.
4. Grady Wheeler and I will be meeting with approximately twenty residents of unincorporated Clackamas County who reside north of Johnson Creek Boulevard on March 20, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. Barb Cartmill, Clackamas County Project Manager for the North Clackamas Revitalization Area and Glenda Kennedy, Technical Services Specialist for the County Department of Water Environment Services will be joining us. Glenda is a resident of the area. We will be discussing extension of the City's sanitary sewer service to the area, answering questions from the residents, and listening to their issues and desires. This meeting is one of what we anticipate to be more with residents in the area.
5. We have scheduled the first meeting of the Budget Committee for Tuesday, April 4, 2006 immediately following the Council's regular meeting. We begin that evening with a volunteer recognition event at 5:30 P.M., followed by a short Council business meeting. The Budget Committee meeting will focus on coming up with a schedule for the next few months. In addition, we hope that Budget Committee members will voice any issues they might want to focus upon during the budget hearings. There will also be an opportunity for public comment.
6. The Citizens' Council will hold its next meeting on March 13, 2006 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at the offices of the County Department of Water

Environment Services, Sunnybrook Service Center, Room 441, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard. The Council will hear staff and technical reports as well as reports from its committee chairs, consider retaining an engineering and financial consultant, and hear from guest speaker John Thomas of the Sunrise Water Authority. The Council will meet in work session from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. immediately preceding its meeting to review and rank engineering and financial firms. The Citizens' Council was created as the Clackamas Service District 1 advisory committee by the Board of County Commissioners in January 2006. It has been charged by the Board with recommending a strategic plan for the location and financing of new wastewater treatment facilities.

7. Warning of street closure – March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>: A road surface problem that was discovered on 3/7/06 has become a major problem. While returning some water valves back to their operating position after the Lake Rd. main break, a valve was found leading to an open line under Harmony Rd. When turned on it raised the asphalt 6" and opened a sinkhole in the middle of the road. Public Works crews filled the hole and cold patched the surface for the night, but the area continues to settle. Plan for repair: The Street department placed several steel plates on 3/8/06 to bridge any further threat of a sinkhole. Next week starting at 9:00 A.M. on 3/14/06 through 3/15/06, the area will be excavated, the problem identified, and a solution implemented. This will require complete closure of this area for two days. Street crews plan to blanket Cedarcrest Dr. residents with a flyer to inform them of the increased traffic during this emergency repair. The City's PIO will notify the media. Staff has notified the PD, Fire, Tri Met, Clackamas Co., NC School Dist., and Union Pacific. Pre notification signs have been posted in the area to alert the public of the closure.
8. Facilities staff spent all day Wednesday, 3/8/06, tracking down the source of the odor at City Hall. To date there are no definitive answers to the source. The staff is eliminating possibilities as they investigate each possible odor source.
9. A new 2006 Dodge Charger for the Police Chief has arrived. It is at Auto Additions for the installation of the Police radios and lights. The shop has been a little short of personnel this week. The mechanics have been attending Emergency Vehicle Technician training classes at the Marion County training facility at Brooks, Oregon. The training classes are conducted by the Oregon Fire Apparatus and Equipment Mechanics Association.

10. The Wastewater Division is cleaning and inspecting lines in the Ardenwald Neighborhood. They found a hanging gasket that needs to be fixed, and they will contract with a contractor to repair it.
11. The Stormwater Division is cleaning and inspecting lines and catch basins in the Island Station Neighborhood. They found two buried catch basins and one drywell. They will continue this until the line is completely cleaned, repaired, and inventoried.
12. The pond for the Library's Lee Kelly fountain now has the planter, and one side has the benches poured. We are going to put drain rock and soil in the planter so the Library can plant flowers soon. The other benches have been formed and will be poured next week.
13. The full copy of the Himmel & Wilson Library Consultant Report can now be found online at [www.co.clackamas.or.us](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us). The full report, together with all appendices, is still considered to be in draft form as County staff receives comments from individual libraries. We have forwarded a couple of comments. One suggests an addition to the facilities section to note that the City has purchased property adjacent to the Library for future expansion. The other requests a change in the section recommending closure of the County's branch libraries. The report suggests that upon closure of the Town Center branch that the service be offered by Happy Valley. Our comment notes support for a Happy Valley branch operated by the City of Happy valley, but it requests that the area both served by the Town Center branch and within Milwaukie's Urban Growth Management Area be served by Milwaukie upon closure.

This afternoon (March 9) the Metro Council referred to the region's voters, for final consideration at the November 7 election, a \$227.4 million bond measure proposal for the purposes of purchasing natural areas and protecting water quality and wildlife habitat.

A copy of the news release, which was issued today, is included below. Further information on this proposal is available online at [www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure](http://www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure).

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Metro news release  
March 9, 2006

Contact: Ken Ray, (503) 797-1508, [rayk@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:rayk@metro.dst.or.us)

Voters to direct Metro Council on purchase of natural areas, protection of water quality

Council refers \$227.4 million bond measure for consideration at November 2006 election

The Metro Council voted unanimously today to refer to voters a bond measure to purchase natural areas, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, and protect water quality. The \$227.4 million package will be considered by the region's voters at the Nov. 7 election.

The bond measure package is designed to preserve natural areas and protect rivers, streams and creeks at the regional, local and neighborhood levels:

- \$168.4 million would be used by Metro to purchase between 3,500 and 4,500 acres of land in identified target areas that would provide regional benefits in preserving wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, enhancing trails and greenways, and connecting urban areas with nature;
- \$44 million would be distributed to cities, counties and park districts within Metro's jurisdiction to fund identified local projects that are consistent with protection of natural areas and water quality, such as land acquisition for habitat protection or future parks, and
- \$15 million would fund a new Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program whereby non-profit organizations, local governments, and other community-based organizations could apply for matched funding (with \$2 of outside funds or in-kind contributions matching \$1 of Metro funds) to support community-level projects. Projects could include the acquisition of neighborhood natural areas, development of community gardens, habitat restoration efforts, interpretive displays, and development of trails, among others.

The program would operate entirely on a willing-seller basis with local property owners. Lands purchased through this bond measure would be retained in public ownership.

"This is one of the most important steps we can take as we face continued population growth," said Metro Councilor Susan McLain, who introduced the bond measure resolution Feb. 23. "Our area is one of the fastest growing parts of the state. This measure helps plan for

growth by protecting natural areas and land along our rivers and streams that might otherwise be threatened by development.

"As a fifth-generation Oregonian, I feel this is an important effort that will help keep Oregon Oregon."

This bond measure proposal is modeled after a successful \$135.6 million package approved by the region's voters in May 1995. The 2006 proposal was formed in consultation with scientists, conservation experts, community leaders and citizens to develop a science-based natural areas protection program that protects water quality and wildlife habitat, preserves scenic vistas and ridge tops, restores streambeds and riparian corridors, and enhances public access to natural areas.

A Blue Ribbon Committee of 18 community leaders provided recommendations to the Metro Council on the bond measure proposal last December. Following the presentation of the committee's recommendations, the Metro Council received further public input through regional public forums, public hearings, and other venues.

"In communities all over the region, citizens have expressed a strong desire to preserve the region's quality of life and natural beauty. We can leave a legacy for future generations by acting now," added Metro Council President David Bragdon.

If the bond measure is approved by voters, it is estimated that owners of property within Metro's jurisdiction would pay an assessment of 19 cents per \$1000 of assessed value in the first year. For a home assessed at \$175,000, that amounts to \$33.25. The annual assessment rate is expected to decline over time as the region's population grows and the property base expands. These estimates are based on an anticipated 20-year payoff period.

All of the bond expenditures would be subject to an annual independent audit published in a local newspaper. An independent citizen advisory committee would provide oversight on all elements of the program.

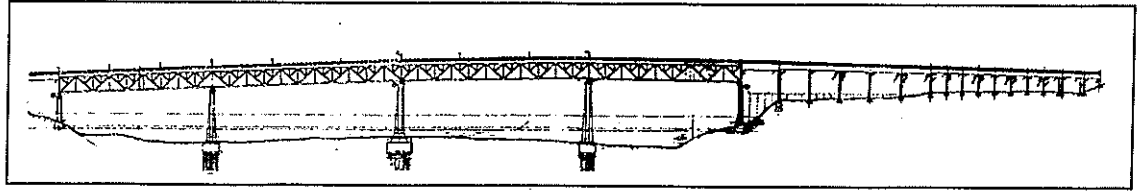
Additional information on the bond measure proposal can be found on Metro's Web site at [www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure](http://www.metro-region.org/bondmeasure).

Metro, the regional government that serves 1.3 million people who live in the 25 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area, provides planning and other services that protect the nature and livability of our region.



MULTNOMAH  
COUNTY

# Fact Sheet



## Sellwood Bridge Project

The Sellwood Bridge is a two-lane structure built in 1925. Multnomah County owns and maintains the fixed-span bridge, which links SE Tacoma St. with Highway 43. The bridge is important for these reasons:

- Provides only crossing for a 12-mile stretch of Willamette River between Portland and Oregon City.
- Busiest two-lane bridge in the state. Average daily traffic is approximately 30,000 vehicles a day.
- Connects Highways 99E and 224 with Highway 43.

## Condition of Existing Bridge

From both a traffic and a structural perspective, the Sellwood Bridge has reached the end of its useful life. Many parts of the structure are in an advanced state of deterioration. Key deficiencies include:

- Maximum bridge loads were reduced to 10 tons in 2004, forcing about 1400 trucks and buses to use an alternate river crossing each day.
- Western approach is settling and sliding.
- Large cracks discovered in concrete approach spans in 2003 were reinforced with steel plates. 2004 inspection discovered additional cracks at east end of bridge.
- Bridge is not designed to resist earthquake forces.
- Narrow traffic lanes with no center median or shoulders.
- Tight ramps at west end cannot accommodate large vehicles.
- Only one narrow sidewalk.
- Traffic is at capacity during peak hours.
- Structural sufficiency rating is 2 out of a possible score of 100. Bridges rated below 50 are generally recommended for replacement.

Multnomah County's Capital Improvement Plan calls for replacement of the structure. The County will also explore the feasibility of rehabilitating the existing bridge.

## Bridge Users

Due to the lack of other river crossings in the southern metro region, the Sellwood has served a diverse group of users.

- Many bridge users are commuters who live in Clackamas County.
- 83% of bridge trips begin or end outside Portland.
- Prior to the reduction of weight limits in June 2004, the bridge was an important secondary freight route, especially for local deliveries. Weight limits prevent many companies from using the bridge, forcing out-of-direction travel that adds to congestion on other routes and increases costs to businesses and consumers.

## Bridge Rehabilitation or Replacement

Rehabilitation or replacement of the Sellwood Bridge would eliminate barriers to the movement of freight and improve safety and traffic flow for all bridge users. Phase 1 of the project is Planning, which will include a Citizen Task Force (CTF), which will develop project goals, alternatives and criteria for selecting a preferred alternative. Multnomah County is currently recruiting concerned citizens who want to become involved in the CTF.

Several issues will need to be considered as the project moves forward. Issues include:

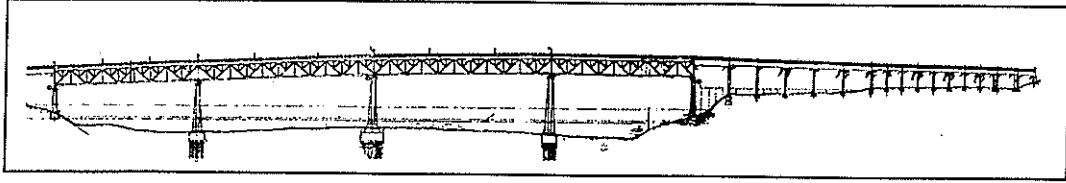
- Replace or rehabilitate the bridge
- Neighborhood livability
- Traffic capacity and the number of travel lanes
- Upgrade bicycle and pedestrian facilities to current standards
- Coordination with SE Tacoma Street plan
- Alignment of new bridge: north, south or same location
- Intersection or interchange at Highway 43
- Right of way impacts
- How to fund
- Bridge type and cost
- Construction closure: short, long or none

Preliminary cost estimates for the project range from \$40 million for rehabilitation to \$140 million for replacement. Multnomah County has secured funds to begin planning and environmental work on the project in 2006. The County will work cooperatively with local cities and counties and with the state and federal governments to complete this important regional transportation project.

### **Multnomah County project contact**

Michael Pullen, Public Affairs Office, 503-988-6804  
(email: [mike.j.pullen@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:mike.j.pullen@co.multnomah.or.us))

Visit Multnomah County's bridges website at [www.co.multnomah.or.us/bridge](http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/bridge).



## ***Sellwood Bridge Community Task Force***

Multnomah County is recruiting volunteers to serve on a Community Task Force that will provide important input during planning for the Sellwood Bridge Project. The 80-year-old Sellwood Bridge has serious structural and design problems that require a long-term solution. The project, which begins in the spring of 2006, will identify a preferred alternative to solve these problems. Alternatives that will be studied include replacement and rehabilitation of the bridge.

The project goal is to select and construct the alternative that best meets the needs of bridge users, neighbors and the larger community. The Community Task Force will develop criteria and evaluate and rank alternatives to meet the project's goal.

### **Ideal volunteer**

The ideal Community Task Force volunteer is someone:

- Interested in the Sellwood Bridge project
- Available to attend monthly evening meetings for two years, starting in spring 2006
- Able to represent the interests of an organization or interest group
- With volunteer committee experience

No professional design experience is required.

### **To volunteer**

Individuals interested in serving need to complete an application form and return it to Multnomah County's Public Affairs Office **by April 1, 2006**. Call 503-988-6804 for a copy of the form.



*Bridge Section  
Land Use and Transportation Division  
1403 SE Water Ave., Portland, OR 97214-3333*



## City and Public Interest Meetings Week of March 13-19

<u>Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>		<u>Contact</u>
<b><u>Monday 13</u></b>	Historic Milwaukie NDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall Conference Room		Ed Zumwalt 503-654-2493
	Hector Campbell NDA	7:00 p.m.	PSB – Community Meeting Room		David Aschenbrenner 503-654-4258
<b><u>Tuesday 14</u></b>	Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers		Alice Rouyer 503-786-7652
	Riverfront Board	6:00 p.m.	PSB – Community Meeting Room		JoAnn Herrigel 503-786-7508
	Ardenwald/JC NDA	6:30 p.m.	Ardenwald Elementary		Lisa Gunion-Rinker 503-659-7807
<b><u>Wednesday 15</u></b>	Citizens Utility Advisory Board	6:00 p.m.	JCB – Conference Room		Paul Shirey 503-786-7601
<b><u>Thursday 16</u></b>	Island Station NDA	6:30 p.m.	Milwaukie Grange		Lisa Batey 503-353-1825