

Sellwood Bridge Project moves forward with new set of possibilities

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

LOCAL POLITICS

The Sellwood Bridge Project, considering the rehabilitation or replacement of the aging structure, began moving toward a decision point last month with a new set of possibilities.

At a joint meeting of the project's Citizen Task Force and Project Advisory Group (made up of representatives of affected agencies and jurisdictions) October 27, consultants presented the pros and cons of five proposals under consideration.

These include two alternative proposals to rehabilitate the existing 1926 bridge, and three to build a new bridge at approximately the same location. A

sixth alternative is "No Build." This, as consultant Steve Katko of CH2M Hill said, is not the same as "do nothing."

"No Build" would involve basic repairs that would allow the bridge to continue to be used for the next 20 years. It would not address structural and seismic issues that currently prevent the bridge from being used by cars and trucks. The cost would be \$54 million.

Katko also presented a series of scenarios for four of the alternatives to be built in phases. The cost of doing the first phase would range from \$81 million for Alternative A to \$110 million for Alternative D. D is the only option

in which first phase work would not involve some temporary closure of the bridge.

In each case, the first phase would strengthen the bridge to the point where it could carry buses, most trucks and emergency vehicles. In each case, building in phases would add to the length and ultimate cost of the completed project.

In discussions among those present, there was some sentiment for the phased approach. One member commented, "People are trying to get someplace and do it safely. We should do something sooner rather than later."

Multnomah County Commission chair Ted Wheeler commented, "It's pretty obvious that we have to be pragmatic, that we can't have all of our objectives. Safety comes first." He noted that much of the budget was devoted to creating a better approach and interchange on the west side and said, "If I have limited bullets, the bridge is where I'd like to aim them."

Barbara Barber, a task force citizen representative, said, "I got involved to build a safe, modest bridge that would move traffic, but have some sensitivity to the fact that it goes through a neighborhood. I'm completely pro-transit, and I know the funding comes from different pots of money, but somehow money was procured for a light rail line

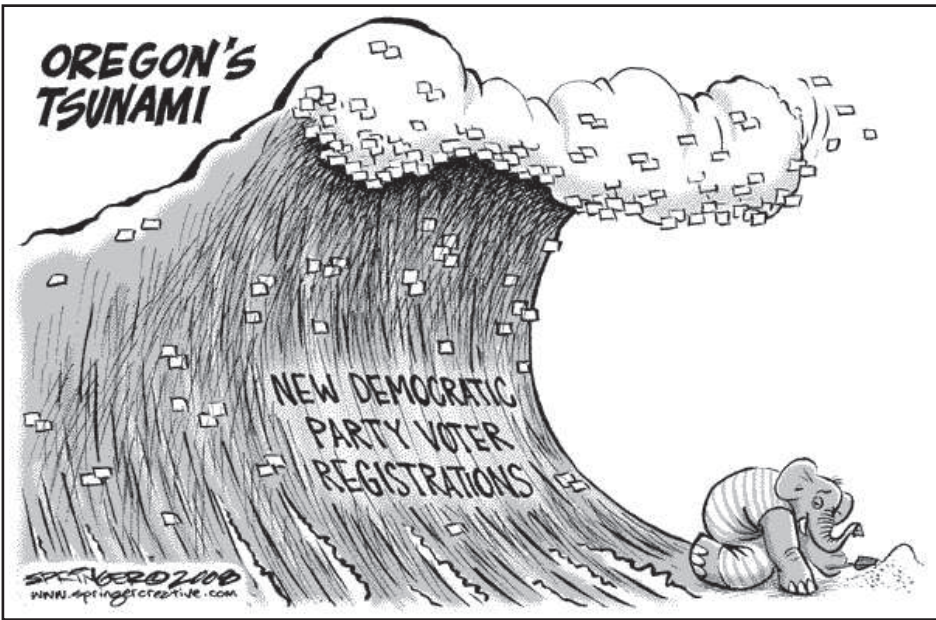


to Milwaukie."

"Here we're nickel-and-diming it to replace a bridge that may fall into the water," said Barber. "If you give people a choice and you put something bright and shiny next to something icky and old, bright and shiny will win every time."

The Environmental Impact Statement on the project, and other information, will be available as of November 7. At that point the County will begin taking public comments on the project.

Editor's Note: Multnomah County has scheduled a series of one-hour briefings to bring the public up to speed about the Sellwood Bridge options. There will be two such sessions November 10 at the County Commission Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., and November 13 at the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion, 7100 S.E. Oaks Park Way. On both days the sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.



Dr. Mark Buxton Orthodontist
making beautiful smiles
(but only for people)

Braces
and
Invisalign®

503-924-2248
2423 SW Vermont St

MARQUIS
CARE
AUTUMN HILLS
Residential & Intermediate
Alzheimer's Care

Its about what we can do,
not what we can't.

(503) 292-7874
6630 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.
Portland, Oregon 97225
www.marquiscompanies.com

When you choose to spend your dollars with locally owned, independent businesses:

- Up to 3 times more money re-circulates in our local economy.
- More local jobs are maintained and created.
- The character of our neighborhoods is enhanced and preserved.
- You are making a REAL difference in the quality of life of our community.

Local First
Choose locally owned businesses

www.sbnportland.org

The Southwest Portland Post

7825 SW 36th Ave Suite #203
Portland, OR 97219
Phone: (503) 244-6933; Fax: (866) 727-5336
general email: news@multnomahpost.com
web address: www.multnomahpost.com

PROUD MEMBER
Multnomah Village Business Association
Hillsdale Business & Professional Association

Editor & Publisher: Don Snedecor
Reporters/Writers: Kate Bennett, Polina Olsen, Lee Perlman, Don Snedecor
Retail Advertising Manager: Harry Blythe
Graphic Design: Leslie Baird Design
Printing: Oregon Lithoprint

© 2008 by The Southwest Portland Post. All rights reserved. The opinions of the artists and authors contained herein are not necessarily shared by the publisher.
Deadline for news and advertising is generally the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please call for current deadline information. Advertising rates are available upon request.
The Post has a circulation of 10,000 in Multnomah Village and the surrounding neighborhood business districts including Burlingame, Capitol Hill, Garden Home, Glen Cullen, Hillsdale, South Portland, Raleigh Hills, West Portland and Vermont Hills. The Post is published on or about the 1st of every month. Subscriptions are \$24 per year. Back issues are \$2.50 each when available. All major credit cards accepted.

Local First
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
The Post is printed on recycled newsprint using soy-based inks.

The Southwest Portland Post

November Special

Mail subscriptions are available at the following rates:

One year (12 monthly issues)..... \$14
Two years (24 monthly issues)..... \$24
Three years (36 monthly issues)..... \$34

Please send check or money order to:
7825 SW 36th Ave #203, Portland 97219

The Southwest Portland Post

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____