

Multnomah County still faces \$10 million Sellwood Bridge funding shortfall

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Multnomah County and its advisory groups spent much of last month seeking ways to bridge a \$10 million gap in funding for a new Sellwood Bridge. At press time they were still \$2.3 million short as both citizens and politicians found one cost-cutting idea unacceptable.

As project manager Ian Cannon explained to the project's Citizen Advisory Committee, and later the Multnomah County Commission, they have run into some unanticipated expenses.

Chief among these is the discovery that the hillside west of Highway 43 (Macadam Avenue), which they are cutting into to make way for a reconfigured roadway, is less stable than previously thought, and there will need to be a retaining wall to prevent future landslides.

Other factors are higher than anticipated subcontractor bids, higher material prices, greater soil contamination beneath the old highway, and "design complexities" in the river bottom where piles are being driven.

All of this has pushed the cost of the project up to just under \$300 million, \$10 million more than there are funds



Detour bridge river work being done using a tugboat last month. (Photo courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)

available, Cannon said. He noted that at times the project cost had been as high as \$330 million, and was reduced by a variety of means.

At press time, the project team recommended using reinforced concrete instead of steel for the bridge's five main pier columns; Cannon said this would involve no loss of safety for the bridge.

Project team members also propose to use one, rather than two, right turn lanes from northbound Highway 43 to the bridge, and to eliminate an under-

bridge bike ramp.

Another proposal was to take an "asymmetrical" approach to the bridge's bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Instead of having space for pedestrians and bicyclists to pass each other on both sides of the bridge, the designers would narrow the lane on the north side to allow for a single bike lane.

This was presented to the project's Citizen Advisory Committee in early July. Some members accepted the idea

— some even suggested that designers do away with non-auto facilities on the north side entirely — but there was also opposition.

The opposition was stronger at a meeting the following week of the public stakeholders committee, made up of representatives of participating jurisdictions.

Cannon told the County Commission that every month of delay increases the project's costs by \$1 million and said, "By the time we got this resolved, we would have eaten up the cost savings."

Roger Averbeck and Andrew Holst
(Continued on Page 5)

**PORTLAND
PERSONAL TRAINING**
& weight loss

FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SESSION

* No gimmicks, no supplements, no tricks.

CALL OR CLICK TO SCHEDULE TODAY.

PortlandPersonalTraining.com
503-403-9040

OREGON SCHOOL of MASSAGE

Promoting better health through quality touch.

Make relaxation your career...



Photo: Peter Schütte

Fall Term begins Sept. 24th

Interested in becoming a Massage Therapist?
Attend the free Massage Training Preview
Wed, Aug. 15 at 6:30pm
Sat, Sept. 8 at 10am



9500 SW Barbur Blvd. #100
Portland, OR 97219
503-244-3420 or 1-800-844-3420
www.OregonSchoolofMassage.com

Parker Realty, Inc.



Multnomah Village - \$369,500
Multnomah Village Storybook 1929 English cottage. 4 BR, 2.5 BA approx. 1800 sq. ft. carefully remodeled with style & quality. New kitchen with cherry cabinets, slab granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and pantry/mudroom. Large dining room and living room with fireplace & hardwood floors. Beautiful landscaping, large fenced flat backyard with outdoor fireplace. MLS 12161413



Jeff Parker
Your Neighborhood Realtor Since 1980

The inventory of houses for sale in the Portland Metro area remains at historic lows. If you are thinking of selling contact us today for a free market analysis.

503-977-1888 • 7830 SW 35th Ave., Portland, OR
www.parkerrealtyportland.com







It's as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4

1. Visit our website at www.SWPortlandPost.com.
2. Read the latest edition of The Post online + our current ratecard.
3. Call Don or Harry at 503-244-6933 to advertise.
4. See your ad online and in print!

P.S. Deadline for September is August 20.





Westover Heights Clinic welcomes internist Marcia Kerensky, MD (formerly Marcia Coodley). She joins the team at Westover Heights Clinic from the Fanno Creek Clinic. Dr. Kerensky specializes in general adult medicine. To make an appointment with Dr. Kerensky please call our office at:
503-226-6678


Westover Heights Clinic
 2330 NW Flanders Street, Suite 207 - Portland
www.westoverheights.com
www.facebook.com/westoverheights