

Massive concrete pours scheduled for Oct. 1 & 13 on Sellwood Bridge project

By Erik Vidstrand and Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

Work continues this month on construction of the new Sellwood Bridge. At press time a massive concrete pour for the Bent 4 (west side) river pier was scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The pour will last about 36 hours. Hundreds of concrete trucks will deliver loads from Macadam Avenue (Highway 43).

The pour will form the upper section of the pier and the angel wings that support the steel arches. Neighbors may notice work lights during the pour and for several days after, as crews monitor the water cooling system.

The east pier pour is scheduled to start at 6 a.m. on Oct. 13 and will also last about 36 hours. Internal water cooling systems will cool the structures while the concrete cures.

Old Bridge: A subcontractor removed the massive concrete blocks of the last river pier in September. The blocks weighed up to 300,000 pounds each. According to Mike Pullen, spokesman for Multnomah County, that is roughly equivalent to the weight of 1,250 LaMarcus Aldridges or 82 Ford Mustangs.

The old river piers had very little steel rebar, compared to the new bridge. The additional rebar will give the new bridge greater strength and stability to resist loads, including seismic forces. Divers will soon begin saw-cutting the underwater

portion of the pier.

West Side: Retaining walls are being constructed and will close the outside southbound lane of Southwest Macadam Avenue weekdays until 4 p.m. This is between Taylors Ferry Road and the bridge.

Installation of tie-backs and concrete anchor heads continues north of the bridge. The tie-backs are being stress tested this month before the final concrete fascia is added.

A northbound lane is closed weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. north and south of the bridge during excavation. Installation for ground anchors of the retaining walls has also been happening.

Night drilling has ended and fencing was installed on walls north and south of the bridge. Installation of soil nails and tie back anchors continues near the lowest level of the north wall.

New Bridge: The new bridge and interchange is shaping up. Work continues on walls and ramps for the new two-level interchange with Macadam Avenue.

Concrete diaphragms were poured to provide stability between pre-cast concrete girders. Some shorter diagonal girders in the interchange are being cast in place, so forms and rebar are being installed for those. Vegetation clearing on the slope above the ramp will be completed soon.

At the west end of the new bridge, conduit will be installed next week for streetlights. More concrete diaphragms were poured



A crane removes a 300,000 lb. chunk of concrete from Pier 2.
(Photo courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)

in September on Span 2 to provide stability between pre-cast concrete girders. Shorter diagonal girders between the bridge and the southeast ramp will be cast in place in October.

River Trail: The contractor rerouted a sewer line and installed a manhole along Miles Place as part of the reconstruction of the road that will be part of the regional trail. Paving is scheduled for early October. Non-residents should avoid this very confined work zone if possible.

Piles were installed in the river recently to support the erection of steel arches in 2015.

For questions about the new Sellwood Bridge project, contact Mike Pullen via email mike.j.pullen@multco.us or call 503-209-4111. Visit www.sellwoodbridge.org for more information.

New Wilson HS Turf
(Continued from Page 1)

and adults. In improving fields for all students, the board said, it is providing access to safe facilities for physical fitness.

Principal Chatard headed a committee of Wilson, Jackson Middle School and Robert Gray Elementary School parents who began raising money for the field in 2013.

According to school district figures, the Randalls provided \$250,000 for Wilson. Other donors and amounts included Nike \$150,000; the district's Great Fields Fund \$77,017; Foothills Soccer Club \$50,000; and others, including parents, \$133,529.

Jessica Tindell, whose son, Riley, 16, is on the varsity football team, said of the field, "It's pretty impressive. . . It's really exciting to see what can happen in a community when they put their efforts into it."

Tindell, a member of the Touchdown Club, which supports Wilson's football program, said the group has a new website, www.trojantdc.com. It carries information, game schedules and has a place to log in to hear a game when fans can't be in attendance.

Editor's Note: In case you're wondering, Wilson's varsity football team beat Franklin 54-7 in their home opener, Sept. 19.

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One of Two Water Main Construction Projects in SW Hillsdale Neighborhood Completed

The Portland Water Bureau constructed two vital water system improvement projects this summer.

The **Bertha Service Area Improvement Project** is complete. More than 2,230 feet of 8-inch diameter water mains were installed to improve water pressure to the neighborhood.

In July, Phase 2 of the **SW Carolina Mains Project** began. Installation of the 24-inch diameter water supply pipeline has been completed on SW Burlingame Drive, on SW Burlingame Terrace, and on SW Terwilliger Boulevard.

The contractor has begun work in the traffic island at SW Terwilliger Boulevard and SW Capitol Highway. The construction area is fenced off from the pedestrian path. Some nighttime work is required on Friday and Saturday so as not to disrupt daytime access to the OHSU hospital.

The paved pedestrian path on Terwilliger Trail is still closed; the gravel path remains open.

Once all pipe work has been completed, road restoration work will begin under favorable weather conditions.

For more information, contact Terry Black, Public Outreach, at 503-823-1168 or terry.black@portlandoregon.gov



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