

Cofferdam being removed; bikes and peds detoured to trolley line

SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Six more months of construction are left for the Sellwood bridge project according to latest county updates.

The big news on the river is the removal of the cofferdam, (a temporary enclosure creating a dry work environment for major work to proceed) that enclosed the west river pier.

The dam was recently flooded and divers are helping to remove the dam's steel plates.

By the end of October, the dam will be fully removed and the concrete river pier will be visible. Thousands of steel studs for the Span 3 deck will be installed and deck rebar continues

being added on Spans 3 and 5. Erection of falsework (a structure or frame that supports something that is being built) for two belvedere lookouts on Span 4 continues.

"These belvederes will offer a place to view the river without impeding sidewalk traffic," commented Multnomah County spokesman Mike Pullen.

Bicyclists and pedestrians are now using a detour path along the trolley corridor between the bridge and the Macadam Bay driveway during work on the east shoulder of Highway 43 (Macadam Avenue).

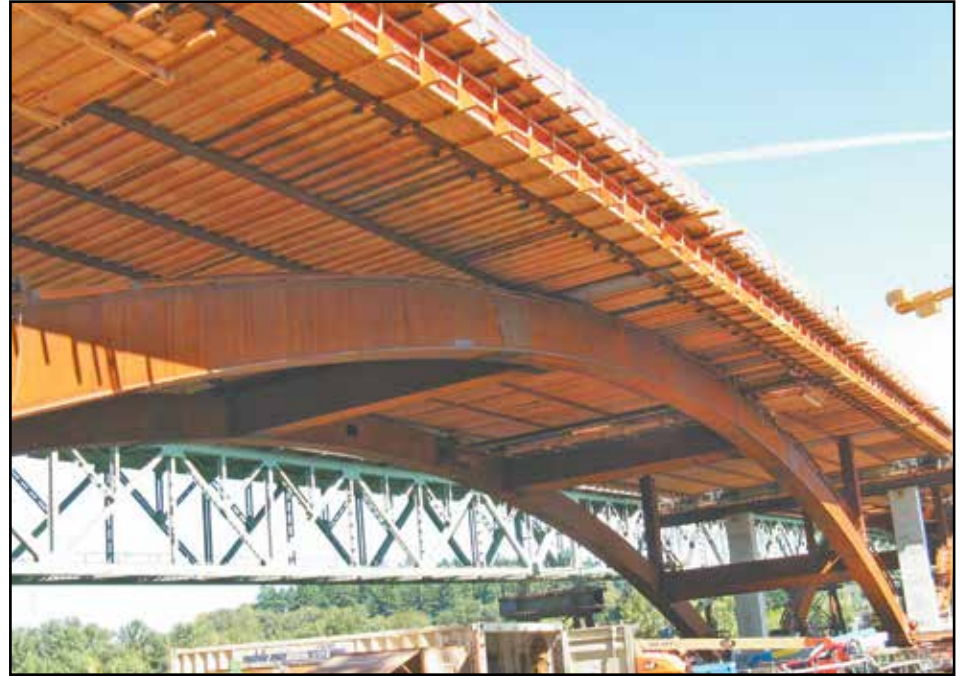
On work days, flaggers are positioned at each end of the trail and where the trail passes near construction vehicles. Trail users should remain alert when riding through the busy project area.

During work on the east shoulder, only three traffic lanes are open between the bridge and the Macadam Bay driveway. Two lanes are open in the peak travel direction and one lane is open in the off-peak direction.

Work continues on the new two-level interchange with Highway 43.

"Motorists traveling directly south towards Lake Oswego," Pullen said, "will not be caught up in bridge traffic."

The contractor is building a shared



Falsework for Span 3 deck on the new Sellwood Bridge. (Photo courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)

driveway from Highway 43 to Macadam Bay and Freeman Motors. The driveway will pass over the Stephens Creek culvert to the Macadam Bay parking lot.

Excavation work and slope finishing

should be all completed by now. The contractor is also installing logs for fish habitat. Rocks will be installed at the creek's outfall to the river and the area will be seeded.



Temporary path between the Sellwood Bridge and Macadam Bay. (Photo courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)



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