

Lower bridge will carry peds and bikes southbound toward Lake Oswego

SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

It's getting down to the wire. The new Sellwood Bridge will soon be void of all construction equipment, detours, and closures.

That's the latest news from Multnomah County spokesperson Mike Pullen as construction workers try to wrap up the project before the December holidays.

Westbound traffic across the bridge can now turn left at the west end to access Highway 43 south (Macadam Avenue). The turnaround loop for southbound traffic at Taylors Ferry

Road has closed.

New signals have been installed at the west end of the bridge and have caused some additional congestion on onramps entering the bridge from the highway.

City transportation engineers are making incremental adjustments to the signals to determine optimal timing to reduce congestion. Staff members are considering timing of the signals at the east side of the bridge on Southeast Tacoma Street (at 6th Avenue, 13th Avenue and farther east) and the volume of traffic at different days and times.

"It will take some time to finalize the signal timing for traffic flow through all the signals in the area," said Pullen. "Continue to expect delays during this necessary process



The lower bridge will carry bicyclists and pedestrians from the westside trail to the south side of the Sellwood Bridge. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)



"Stratum Project," is a series of ecologically inspired geologic sculptural totems created by artist Mikyoung Kim from Boston. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

and drive with caution."

As for the multiuse path bridge, the concrete has been stained rust red to match the arch spans. The bridge will carry bicyclists and pedestrians from the regional trail under the main bridge to reach its south sidewalk.

Topsoil has been installed on adjacent slopes and drainage near the trolley corridor. A sub-ballast will be placed on this later. The contractor has removed the last piles from the detour bridge and piles are also being removed from the old dock at Staff Jennings.

"They continue to cut the old bridge steel into smaller pieces," Pullen said. "The pieces are then placed on a barge for transport to a

local recycler."

The first set of statues by artist Mikyoung Kim has been installed on the south side of Tacoma Street between Southeast Sixth Avenue and the bridge.

Statues on the north side of Tacoma Street will be installed this fall. Kim's concept, "Stratum Project," is a series of ecologically inspired geologic sculptural totems.

According to Pullen, layers of various recycled and formed materials create a quilted surface that represents earth, water and sky as the gateway to the Sellwood neighborhood.

For information on the bridge project, please visit <http://www.sellwoodbridge.org/>

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