

Sellwood Bridge receives Greenroads silver certification for sustainability

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

According to the Greenroads Foundation, Multnomah County's Sellwood Bridge replacement project has earned Greenroads Silver Certification. The bridge project is the 39th Greenroads Project certified in the world and takes the top rank as the highest scoring project to date.

The Sellwood Bridge is the cornerstone of the entire \$324 million Sellwood Bridge replacement program that also included work on the Oregon 43 interchange, local streets, regional parks, and the nearby trail system.

The original bridge was built in 1925. It crossed the Willamette River and was structurally deficient, vulnerable to earthquakes, had restricted access for buses, no bike lanes, and provided only limited connectivity for pedestrians.

The replacement project was made possible by using an innovative method of procurement called construction manager/general contractor.

This approach enabled the integrated team to collaborate and implement ideas that save time and money, such as the lateral bridge slide, which moved the old bridge to make space for the new bridge.

The bridge slide was a specialty process that ended up saving the public upwards of \$10 million in tax dollars from the initially estimated costs.

To do this, contractors used hydraulic jacks to shift the original 3,400-ton steel bridge 33 feet at the east end and 66 feet at the west end

onto a temporary structure, little by little, in a process that lasted 14 hours. This temporary structure served as a detour bridge.

The bridge move looks similar to a windshield wiper and made room for the adjacent construction of the new replacement bridge while maintaining the existing traffic connections.

The shift also allowed the project to avoid and reduce environmental impacts within the waterway by avoiding building the new bridge in two phases, each requiring in-water work.

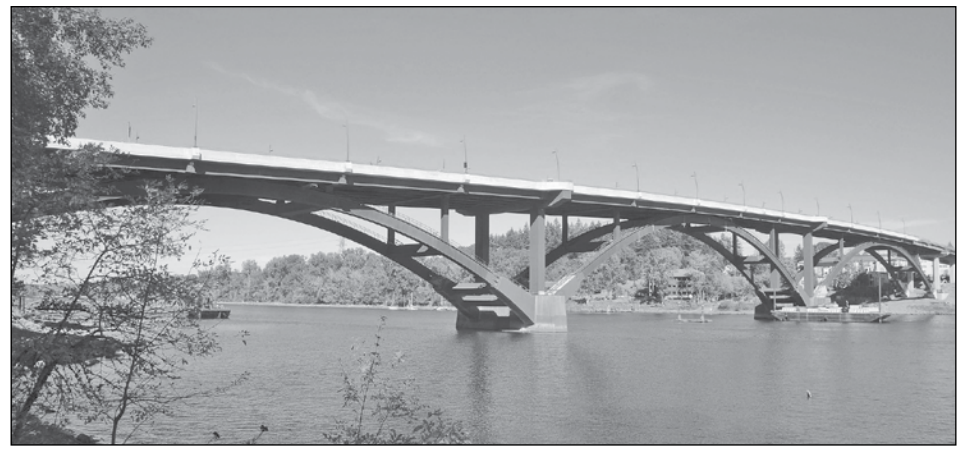
Portland is known for its signature bridges, so creating a unique, beautiful bridge that fit aesthetically into the neighborhood context was crucial. The result is a steel deck arch made with recycled components that echoes the character of the first bridge.

"One of our goals for the project was to reflect the county's values around sustainability, and we feel that the Greenroads certification is independent recognition that the county has achieved those goals," said Ian Cannon, transportation director and engineer for Multnomah County.

"What sets this project apart is how much collaboration happened between Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Transportation, the City of Portland, and the design and construction teams," said Jeralee Anderson, chief executive officer of the Greenroads Foundation.

"That collaboration was key to achieving so many environmental, social, and economic wins for this green bridge."

According to Cannon, "The new bridge has much better connections



The new Sellwood Bridge, viewed from the southwest from Powers Marine Park, in late September 2016. (Photo by Steve Morgan)

into the trail network on the west end of the bridge and better connections at the east end of the bridge, so it really ties into the routes that people who aren't using cars travel."

Creating a more multi-modal bridge is just one of the ways that the new Sellwood Bridge demonstrates stakeholders' commitment to sustainability.

Other sustainable actions included sourcing 94 percent of materials by cost within 50 miles, including recycled steel products. Contractors recycled over 91 percent of waste materials, and installed energy-efficient LED lights that limit light pollution. Educational plaques documenting the history of the bridge for pedestrians were installed.

Funding was provided by Multnomah County, the City of Portland, the State of Oregon, and the Federal Highway Administration, including a TIGER Grant.

The Sellwood Bridge was designed by T.Y. Lin, CH2M Hill, Walker Macy, Safdie Rabines Architects, Mainline Design, Inc., and Reyes Engineering.

Slayden Sundt Joint Venture was the prime contractor and other construction team members included Omega Morgan, Ross Island Sand & Gravel, Rose City Rebar, Thompson Metal Fab, and Knife River Corporation. David Evans and Associates acted as Owner's Representative.

Three other transportation projects in Oregon are also certified as a result of the Sellwood Bridge Replacement Program: OR 43 Interchange (Silver - Oregon Department of Transportation), Southwest Macadam Bay Drive and Regional Trail (Bronze - City of Portland Bureau of Parks & Recreation) and Southeast Tacoma Street (Bronze - City of Portland Bureau of Transportation).

Special thanks to Joshua Hatfield of Greenroads Foundation for providing press information for this story. Case studies and further details for Greenroads Certified Projects and Greenroads Pilot Projects are available at www.greenroads.org/portfolio. Additional information about the Sellwood Bridge can be found at www.sellwoodbridge.org.

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