



## Elkton Bridge may be a first in the nation



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Elkton is getting a new bridge, but with a twist. For the first time in Oregon, and maybe the country, this bridge has design cues from high school students.

At an all-school assembly at Elkton High Wednesday, a hand-drawn rendition of the new Elkton bridge shows the winning idea from some high school students.

Representatives from ODOT awarded a plaque and \$500 to the lead student, Richard Sanchez, who helped with the school project, to personalize the new Elkton bridge.

Four more plaques were awarded to students that helped Sanchez with ideas.

A pylon, like a short obelisk, was suggested by the students in Ms. Williams' art class, and several students suggested putting a time capsule inside the pylon, which may not be seen again for 75 years when the bridge is expected to rebuilt.

Ms. Williams: "It's (time capsule) going to be completely encased in the concrete. The pylon is actually going to be sprayed with concrete, then carved. So the time capsule is going to be completely encased in cement."

All 13 classes, from kindergarten through 12th grade have something in the time capsule, things like CDs of music, DVD's of pictures, written essays and poems, a can of Monster energy drink stuffed with notes.

Richard Sanchez won the \$500 prize for his part in designing the pylon, which will be placed on the southwest corner of the new bridge later this year.

Sanchez: "Well, I was going to save it for this scholarship that I'm trying to enter in, to go to Colorado. I can get this scholarship, if I win. They pick 60 kids and then I get a full ride to college."

The old bridge over Elk Creek will be used until the new one being built right next to it opens.

ODOT hopes to have the new bridge open by the next school year in the fall.

ODOT official Suzanne Roberts says this may be a first in the whole country that high school students were involved in designing a bridge project.

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