

Center Street Bridge Salem

House Bill 2017

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2017, a transformative investment in Oregon’s transportation system. The bill included \$60 million of statutorily directed funding to design and construct seismic retrofit improvements to improve safety and speed of recovery of the Salem area after a major seismic event.

Project Overview

Only two bridges (Center Street Bridge and Marion Street Bridge) cross over the Willamette River in the Salem area, connecting West Salem to portions of Salem east of the river; both are state-owned bridges. Both bridges are seismically vulnerable and unable to withstand a significant earthquake, potentially disconnecting the Salem community in the event of a major seismic event. Since limited funding precludes the ability to replace both bridges, ODOT plans to provide a seismically resilient river crossing through retrofit of a single bridge. Of the two bridges, the Center Street Bridge is a better candidate for a seismic retrofit. This project is being phased to advance resiliency with limited funding.

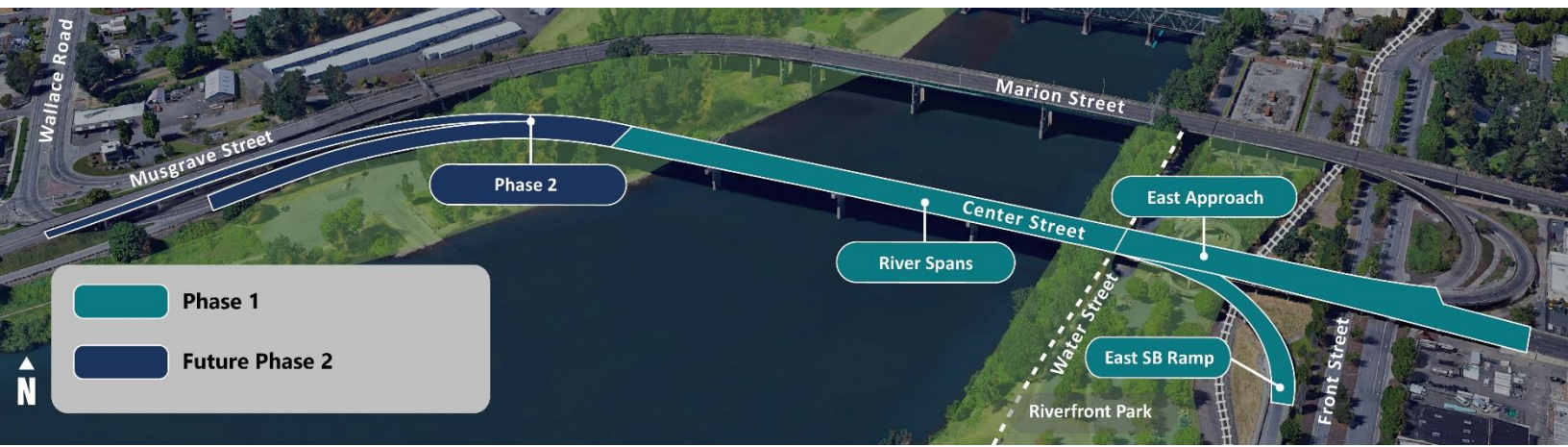
Phase 1 addresses the resiliency of the east side ramps of the Center Street Bridge and the river spans. Additionally, this phase includes a plan to ensure that connectivity from the west can be reestablished shortly after a major seismic event. This is important given that most essential services necessary for residents of the west Salem area (including medical services) are on the the east side of the river and would be inaccessible if both bridges should fail. Phase 1 is fully funded.

Phase 2 addresses the resiliency of the west side approach and ramps of the Center Street Bridge. Due to the structure and soil conditions of the west side ramps and approach, it was determined that the approach and ramps cannot be retrofitted and must be replaced. Phase 2 is unfunded.

The construction schedule is dependent on the timeline to work through the federal and state regulatory processes. Construction is planned to begin in 2026.

Improvements

- Reconstruct and widen the bridge piers/supports.
- Strengthen east approach and east southbound ramp by reinforcing the existing columns and foundations.
- Replace existing City of Salem waterline on the bridge to improve seismic resiliency.
- Develop Emergency Response Plan to identify the most efficient way to reconnect the west approach following a major seismic event.



Benefits

- Ability to reconnect west Salem and surrounding communities to critical services and I-5 in weeks or months instead of years.
- Increase the seismic resiliency of City utility infrastructure.

What's Been Done

- Started Phase 1 design for the main span and the ramps on the east side of the river. This includes exploring the material below the surface of the ground and developing potential construction staging and traffic impacts.
- Conducted a value engineering study to review plans and identify cost-effective alternatives to make the needed improvements while maximizing the budget.
- Coordination with the City of Salem Public Works Department on upgrade of their water line across the bridge for seismic resiliency.
- Initiated collaboration with the City of Salem Parks Department on impacts to Riverside and Wallace Marine Parks during construction.

Phase 1 Budget and Schedule Risks

- NEPA and FHWA Section 4(f) require the City of Salem to approve the impact analysis to Riverside and Wallace Marine Parks. The City is requiring additional park improvements, which will increase project costs and potentially delay the schedule at least one year.
- Soil conditions for river span bridge foundations need further analysis, which could result in higher costs for mitigation.
- Traffic impacts during construction.

Finances – Project Funding

- \$60 million House Bill 2017 (directed)
- \$40 million House Bill 2017 Bridge Seismic funds
- Balance of Phase 1 funding will be identified from Bridge Program
- Project estimated costs:
 - Phase 1: \$130 - \$200 million
 - Phase 2: \$130 - \$190 million

Project Timeline

- 2019: Advanced investigation of bridge condition completed.
- 2021: Consultant design team established.
- 2022: Project design and associated field work initiated.
- 2023: Value Engineering Study completed.
- Summer 2024: Completed Cost Risk Analysis.
- Fall 2024: Identified updated phased project delivery strategy and refined scope.
- Spring 2025: Resolve mitigation of park impacts in collaboration with City of Salem.
- Early 2026: Open bids for first stage of construction.
- Summer 2026: Construction to start on first stage.

For more information about the project visit:
<https://direc.to/mTFz>

