

Connecting Communities: I-5 Boone Bridge Update

July 1, 2024

The Oregon Department of Transportation's [I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project](#) in Wilsonville is taking time to consider how the project might impact the community it serves. It's important that the new bridge is safe for all users now and in the future. That's why the project is making special efforts to give everyone a chance to be heard.

Giving everyone a fair chance to be heard relates to one of the [project's goals](#). The goal is to "follow an equitable process for meaningful public input in project decision making." It's not just a good idea, it's also a requirement of Oregon's new [Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities \(CFEC\)](#) program. The CFEC program focuses on sustainability, inclusivity, and community involvement.

Not speaking English as a first language can be a barrier for some community members to get involved. Spanish is the top language spoken other than English and the Spanish-speaking community is the largest underrepresented group near the Boone Bridge project area. That's why the project is focused on involving people who speak Spanish and translating project materials. The goal is for them to have the same opportunity in the decision making process as everyone else.

The project team has contracted with Romeo Sosa, a community engagement liaison who is a member of the Hispanic community. Romeo reached out directly to local Spanish speakers to help raise awareness about the project and invite their participation. Spanish speaking community members were invited to take part in project surveys and in-person and online open houses. This included passing out flyers to customers and employees at local businesses. It also involved emails and posting in Spanish on Facebook pages popular with local Spanish speakers. Project materials were made available in both English and Spanish online, by mail and at the in person open house. Romeo also attended the November 2023 open house to offer Spanish interpretation services for anyone who requested it.

This summer the project will be doing more community outreach including to Spanish speakers and Latino residents. We will be conducting a discussion group for those who speak Spanish to share their concerns about the project area. The project is also planning a separate discussion



Community Engagement Liaison Romeo Sosa is helping include voices of Spanish speakers and Latino residents in the decision-making process for the I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project.

group for low-income community members. All discussion group participants will be paid for providing their valuable time and ideas.

Considering the environment and community is what the CFEC program is all about. This process is also about taking time to give thoughtful consideration for how transportation projects can benefit the communities they serve.

The I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement project aims to build a bridge across the Willamette River that can withstand a major earthquake while improving safety and congestion. It also aims to provide better options for the active transportation community. Learn more and sign up for project updates on the project website: <https://tinyurl.com/BooneBridge>