

Connecting Communities: I-5 Boone Bridge Update

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The Oregon Department of Transportation's [I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project](#) in Wilsonville isn't just about fixing a bridge. It's about bringing communities together and improving travel options for everyone. At the heart of this effort is Oregon's new [Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities \(CFEC\)](#) program, which focuses on sustainability, inclusivity and community involvement.

The project aims to build a bridge across the Willamette River that can withstand a major earthquake. It also aims to improve safety and congestion and provide better options for the active transportation community. The new bridge needs to be safe for all kinds of traffic—cars, buses, walkers and bike riders—now and in the future. This could include ODOT considering building a wider bridge that can hold a new auxiliary lane in the southbound direction of I-5.

CFEC is a new set of state rules that apply to projects in Oregon like this one. In line with CFEC, the project team is looking at different ideas that could meet the project's need to manage traffic congestion. The process is designed to gather feedback from the community including how the project may impact under-represented populations to cities and counties, allowing them to make well-informed decisions.

The CFEC process is centered on promoting equitable outcomes for those who use the bridge. That's why the project team has been reaching out to different groups in the project area, like communities for whom English is a second language, bike riders, commuters and low-income communities. Last fall the project team hosted an [online survey for bike riders](#) asking what they need to safely cross the Willamette River.

This summer, the project team will be doing additional outreach. Engaging with communities who aren't always at the table will help give everyone a chance to be heard and considered in the decision-making process.

This way of doing things matches up with what the CFEC program is all about. It helps promote what's best for the environment and the community. This process is also about taking time to give thoughtful consideration for how transportation projects impact the communities they serve.

Learn more about ODOT's CFEC program: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/planning/pages/climate-transportation-planning.aspx>



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