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For more information:

Don Hamilton, 503-704-7452, [Don.B.Hamilton@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Don.B.Hamilton@odot.state.or.us)

Kimberly Dinwiddie, 503-731-2811, [Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us)

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Ceremonial re-opening Sunday of the Arch Bridge**

*Sunday ribbon-cutting will be followed by full re-opening to traffic at 5 a.m. Monday*

ODOT plans a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at 2 p.m. Sunday Oct. 14 to mark the re-opening of the Oregon City-West Linn Arch Bridge after a 21-month rehabilitation.

The bridge will officially re-open to traffic at 5 a.m. Monday Oct. 15. Although the bridge is re-opening, the project won't be completed until the end of the year.

The Sunday event, to be held at the Oregon City end of the bridge, will include dedication of two time capsules and remarks by ODOT Director Matt Garrett, Clackamas County Commissioner Charlotte Lehan, Oregon City Mayor Doug Neeley, West Linn Mayor John Kovash and representatives of the Federal Highway Administration and the project contractor, Wildish Standard Paving.

The ceremony will be part of the three-day Willamette Falls Festival, a celebration of the bridge and the Willamette Falls Heritage Area. For information on the Oct. 12-14 festival, go to [www.willamettefallsfestival.com](http://www.willamettefallsfestival.com).

The rehabilitated bridge will feature a new roadway, new sidewalks, new railings, new pylons and new lighting that includes replicas of the lamps on the bridge when it first opened in December 1922.



**The Oregon City-West Linn Arch Bridge, shown under construction earlier in 2012, re-opens to traffic Oct. 15**

The project is intended to restore the bridge to how it looked originally and to restore its original load-carrying capacity. Before the bridge was closed for renovation in January 2011, it was restricted to maximum loads of 14 tons and no commercial vehicles.

The project included:

- Removal of Gunitite on the arches by hydro-blasting and installing new shotcrete.
- Replacement of the sidewalks and bridge rail, which were not strong enough to meet today's safety standards.
- Embedding steel beams in the new concrete bridge rails.
- Replacement of deteriorated concrete.
- Inspection and repair of steel components.
- A new bridge deck surface and expansion joints.
- Restoration of the historic lighting.
- Seismic retrofits.

Cost of the project is \$15 million, 90 percent of which comes from federal funds.

The bridge, designed by renowned Oregon bridge engineer Conde McCollough, opened in 1922.

For information on the bridge and the project, go to

[www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/pages/or43\\_willamette\\_river\\_br/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/pages/or43_willamette_river_br/index.aspx).

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