

Work begins on Highway 38 bridge replacements

Project overview

ODOT has begun a project to replace five bridges on the 14 mile stretch of Highway 38 between Elkton and Drain. The bridge replacements will allow Highway 38 to continue to serve as a key route for local travel as well as regional business and tourism. The five bridges that will be removed were built between 1929 and 1932 and require replacement due to structural and functional deficiencies. The new bridges will meet modern design standards for heavier loads, and include safety improvements such as wider shoulders. A left turn lane from Highway 38 westbound onto Highway 138 southbound will also be added to enhance traffic safety.

Project location

The bridges that will be replaced are:

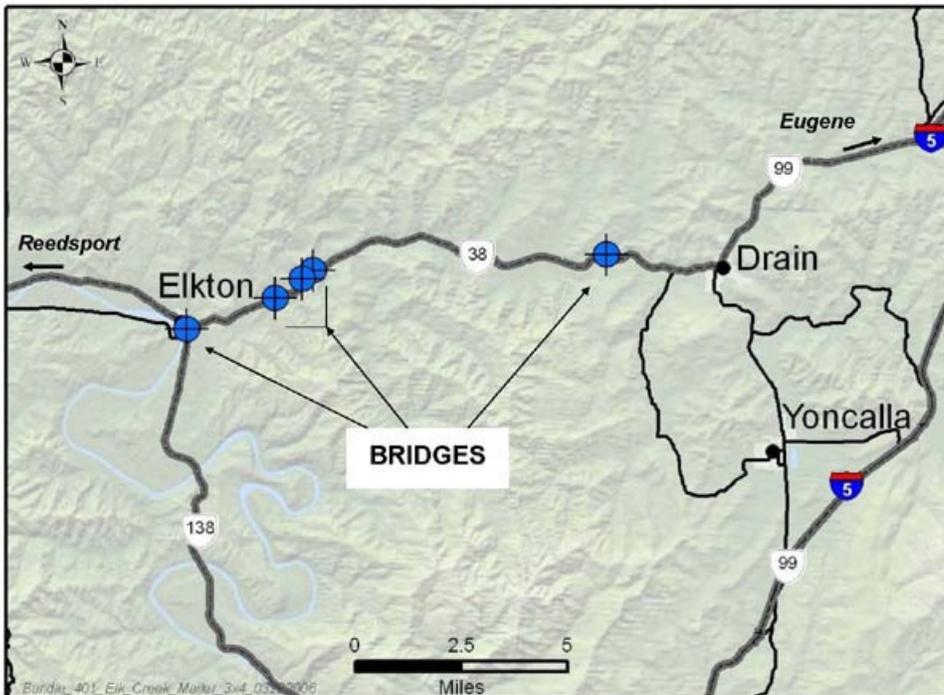
- The bridge over Elk Creek at the eastern entrance to Elkton at milepost 36.
- The bridge over Elk Creek at milepost 38.
- The bridges over Elk Creek at the east and west end of the Elk Creek tunnel at milepost 39.
- The bridge over Hardscrabble Creek at milepost 47.

Traffic conditions

All of the Highway 38 bridges will remain open to one lane of traffic in each direction during the first year of work. Throughout construction, and barring accidents, **possible delays on Highway 38 should not exceed 20 minutes and there will be no delays on weekends.** Even when work is taking place on multiple bridges simultaneously, your normal travel time through the corridor should not increase by more than 20 minutes. Flaggers will direct motorists, thus expediting traffic flow more efficiently than if directed by a traffic signal. Plans have been developed to ensure that trucks and RVs will be able to utilize the Highway 38 bridges during construction. Arrangements have also been made with local emergency service providers to facilitate swift passage of emergency vehicles through the work zones.

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Construction begins on four bridges

ODOT's contractor, Slayden Construction Group, will begin construction of the four new Elk Creek bridges this year. **Work on the Hardscrabble Creek bridge will not begin until spring/summer 2008.** The majority of the construction activity must take place in the summer months because laws that protect salmon, steelhead and trout limit the period when in-water work can occur. Construction of all five bridges and improvements to the roadway will be completed by October 2009.

Elk Creek Tunnel Bridges at milepost 39

In June, the Slayden crew will start work on the bridges adjacent to the Elk Creek tunnel. The physical constraints posed by both the geography and the narrow access to the historic tunnel make it challenging to build at this site. To address these unique conditions, ODOT has chosen to use an innovative rapid replacement technique.

First, the Slayden crew will construct the new bridges next to the existing bridges. In the summer of 2008, they will demolish the old bridges and use hydraulic machinery to slide the new structures into place. This approach will substantially reduce the amount of time that construction will intrude on motorists.

Elk Creek Bridge at milepost 38

Construction of the bridge over Elk Creek at milepost 38 will begin in summer 2007. At this site, the new bridge will be constructed slightly north of the existing structure. The new alignment of the road and bridge will improve motorist safety because it will straighten the highway and improve sightlines. The Slayden crew will construct the new bridge and roadway during the course of the next year while motorists continue to use the old bridge. Demolition of the old bridge and extensive planting of low lying plants and grasses at

the site of the old roadway will follow in summer 2008.

Elkton Bridge at milepost 36

The Elkton bridge will be replaced in phases to maintain two lanes of traffic at all times without the use of a costly detour structure. In phase one of the construction, beginning in the summer of 2007, the Slayden crew will build the north half of the new bridge. They will also install a temporary walkway for pedestrians on the north side of the new bridge. The walkway will serve pedestrians during later phases of the construction when the existing sidewalk will be inaccessible. When completed, the new bridge will be thirty-one feet wider than the old bridge and will include a permanent sidewalk that is seven feet wide.

Please check your mail and local papers for updated information about the project construction schedule.

Public meetings held in Drain, Elkton and Reedsport



Above: One of the families that attended the ODOT open house at North Douglas Elementary School shows off the model bridges that the fourth and fifth grade classes made with project staff from T.Y. Lin International and Slayden Construction Group.

In April 2007, ODOT held open houses in Reedsport (April 3 at Reedsport City Hall) and Drain (April 23 at North Douglas Elementary School) to provide community members with an update on the plans for the construction of the new bridges. ODOT staff and project team members were on hand to respond to questions and concerns raised by attendees. More than sixty individuals attended the open houses to learn about the project. These meetings were held as a follow up to ODOT's first project open

houses that were held in April 2006, at which time the project was introduced and feedback was sought regarding the proposed construction options.

Project team members also recently made presentations about the construction plans to the Drain Chamber of Commerce and the Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, representatives of the City of Elkton and several Elkton business owners met with project team members to discuss the upcoming work and mobility impacts.

Elkton High School to help design and build pylons

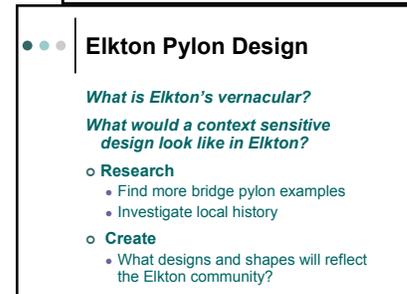
The bridge over Elk Creek at the east end of Elkton serves as a key entryway to the town. ODOT recognizes the importance of this bridge in Elkton's landscape; thus, the goal of the project team is to develop a replacement bridge that fits with the community's unique sense of place. To achieve that, ODOT is inviting the Elkton community to help develop the designs for the bridge's decorative pylons.

On April 23, members of the project team met with the Elkton High School student body and community members to discuss this project. Project team members from T.Y. Lin International and Slayden Construction Group gave a presentation that introduced students to examples of distinctive pylons in Oregon

and around the world. They invited students to think about what designs and decorative elements would reflect their community and described the role that they would like students to play in both designing and building the pylons.

Elkton High School teachers Debbie Williams and Dennis Quinby are taking leadership roles in the project. Ms. Williams will work with students to develop design concepts for the pylons and she is soliciting help from community artists and historians to help students create design ideas. Once the final designs are selected, staff with T.Y. Lin International will prepare precise drawings for Mr. Quinby's shop class. The class will use these measurements to

build wood forms for casting the bridge's decorative concrete pylons.



Above: Slides from the presentation made at Elkton High School by the project team.

Reedsport students build bat boxes for bridges

To inform and involve stakeholders of all ages, project team members met with students at Reedsport Junior and Senior High School. The visit was designed to give students information that related their classroom studies to some of the project work being performed and to acquaint them with career opportunities in the field of transportation. The team's lead bridge engineer gave a special presentation to two high school geometry classes studying bridge design, while seniors met with the team to learn about summer project-based job opportunities with Slayden Construction Group.

The team's environmental manager also spoke with the

seventh grade students about bats and the efforts to avoid impacts to the bats that like to roost underneath the Highway 38 bridges. The 7th grade students contributed to those efforts by working with project team members to build special boxes that provide ideal roosting conditions for the bats. The completed boxes will be installed under the new bridges.



Above: A team of 7th grade students at Reedsport Junior High School build a bat box for the new Highway 38 bridges.

Left: A team of students pose with their completed bat box.



OR 38: Elk Creek to Hardscrabble Creek
c/o Zetlin Strategic Communications
1727 NW Hoyt St.
Portland, OR 97209

Contractor's on-site office opens for business

Slayden Construction Group, ODOT's contractor for this project, has opened their on-site project office on Highway 38. The office is located at milepost 48, one mile west of Drain.

In addition to serving as the headquarters for construction coordination, Slayden's on-site office is also a resource for you. If you have questions or concerns about the project, you are welcome to stop by or call the office. You can reach the office at (888) 836-8961.



Project Funding

This project is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act program. OTIA funds will repair or replace hundreds of bridges, pave and maintain city and county roads, improve and expand interchanges, add new capacity to Oregon's highway system, and remove freight bottlenecks statewide. About 17 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the OTIA program, construction projects will sustain about 5,000 family-wage jobs.

For More Information

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