

# What early planning looks like on the I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project

February 7, 2024

## Hearing from the community

The I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project is in a very early planning phase. It is known as the Planning and Environmental Linkages process, or PEL. This process helps us make better decisions about transportation projects. We do this by involving the community and other agencies early in the project. We work together to understand the problems we are trying to solve with the project and how to address those needs. This helps us understand what we need to be aware of in the community and the environment as we develop solutions. The results of the PEL process will guide us in the next phases of the project.



Carol Snead, ODOT Environmental Project Manager, presents information about the PEL process at the I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project Open House in November 2023.

## The PEL Process

ODOT and our federal partners work together with all potentially impacted communities, government agencies and Tribes in the project area during the PEL process. We start by gathering input and opinions early in the project to make sure the transportation-related problems are identified and documented in the *Purpose, Needs and Goals*. We then work as a team to explore solutions or alternatives, comparing them to select the most suitable ones that align with the project's *Purpose, Needs and Goals*. Throughout the process, we share information, gather input and maintain open communications with the above groups. This work helps prepare the project for the future environmental phase.

## Where we are in the PEL process

This fall, we asked for your feedback on the *Draft Purpose, Needs and Goals* in our online and in-person open houses. We received a total of 203 comments through the two events. We have engaged with 18 agencies with an interest in the project. Based on agency and public input, we updated the *Draft Purpose, Needs and Goals*. Revisions included adding specific transportation aspects, such as travel time reliability, maritime transportation system reliability, and transportation demand management. In 2024, we plan to engage with the public and agencies as we explore possible alternatives.

## Learn More and Stay Connected

To learn more about the project, [watch a video](#) of our recent open house and visit the website at <https://tinyurl.com/BooneBridge>. To stay up to date on project news and ways to get involved, [sign up for updates](#).