

I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement Project

Purpose, Needs and Goals

The following purpose, needs and goals were developed in coordination with area government agencies, Tribes and the general public.

Purpose

The purpose of the I-5 Boone Bridge Replacement project is to:

- provide a seismically resilient interstate bridge across the Willamette River in Wilsonville, Oregon.
- address safety issues and manage traffic congestion.
- improve connections for movement of all modes: bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles (including transit and freight).

Needs

The I-5 Boone Bridge project is needed because:

- The I-5 Boone Bridge is not earthquake-ready: it will not withstand a major earthquake.
ODOT identified I-5 in the Wilsonville area as a critical lifeline route, which means it must be operational quickly after an earthquake to support emergency response and access to services. [[Oregon Seismic Lifelines Identification Project](#) (2012)] Keeping the Maritime Transportation System open for the movement of goods and services would also be important after an earthquake.

- Traffic congestion on and approaching Boone Bridge adversely affect traveler safety, travel time reliability, freight movement and the economy.

The I-5 Boone Bridge, and interchanges to the north and south of it, are a traffic bottleneck. Closely-spaced on/off ramps cause drivers to merge and weave resulting in congestion and crashes that reduce travel speeds and travel-time reliability for people travelling by car and transit, or moving freight by truck. [[I-5 Boone Bridge and Seismic Improvement Project](#) (2021)] Buses on and approaching the bridge also often get stuck in traffic, reducing on-time performance.

- Pedestrian and bicyclist travel options across the Willamette River are limited and can be uncomfortable for people to use.

The I-5 Boone Bridge is the only Willamette River bridge crossing for over 10 miles in either direction. Pedestrians and bicyclists using the bridge are not separated from high-speed traffic, which affects the quality of the biking or walking experience [[ODOT Highway Design Manual, Appendix L, Bicycle & Pedestrian Design Guide \(2023\)](#)], [[ODOT Blueprint for Urban Design \(2020\)](#)]

Goals

The following goals are desirable outcomes of the I-5 Boone Bridge project:

- Provide an earthquake-resilient bridge that can withstand a Cascadia-level event.
- Improve driver safety, travel times and freight movement with reduced congestion and fewer crashes.
- Increase travel options with improved transit reliability and access for people walking, bicycling and rolling across the Willamette River.
- Manage traffic and transportation demand with improved system operations.
- Follow an equitable process for meaningful public input in project decision making.
- Support climate resiliency and the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of the Oregon Statewide Transportation Strategy.
- Support state, regional and local transportation and land use planning efforts.
- Avoid and minimize environmental and cultural impacts and, as funding allows and in partnership with the appropriate agency and tribal partner(s), consider potential opportunities for enhancement or restoration of previously affected resources.