

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION  
HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST FORM**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009**

This form must be filled out in its entirety. It must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from a state, regional, or local governmental official specifically supporting the project request. This letter should discuss the merits of the project; specify the process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the project; and identify the other sources of Federal, state, or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase. This letter must contain an explicit statement of support for the project. In addition, if you are requesting less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost. Please use **boldface font** to highlight these statements in the letter.

**The deadline to submit this form and the support letter is Friday, April 24, 2009. No exceptions.** If you need to submit this form along with any supplementary materials to David Skillman via email at [skillman@mail.house.gov](mailto:skillman@mail.house.gov). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Skillman at 503-595-4811.

**Form instructions:** This form contains drop-down menus to answer some questions. To access the drop-down menu, run your cursor over "Select One" or "Select One if Applicable" and click your mouse. A drop-down menu will appear and you can select the appropriate answer. Additionally, written answers should be typed in the gray boxes provided.

**1. Project Title:**

Sellwood Bridge, Multnomah County Oregon

**2. Organization (project sponsor) Name and Address:** (if state or local entity, please identify specific department requesting funding)

Multnomah County  
Department of Community Services/Land Use and Transportation  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600  
Portland OR 97214

**3. Primary contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number, and e-mail:**

Karen Schilling  
503-595-9635  
503-595-9635 (D)  
503-595-9635  
[karen.schilling@multnomah.or.us](mailto:karen.schilling@multnomah.or.us)

**4. Project location address (if different from organization):**

Sellwood Bridge on SE Tacoma St between State Hwy 43 and SE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, in Portland, Oregon

**5. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The purpose of the project is to replace the 84-year old Sellwood Bridge. The current bridge has a sufficiency rating of 2 out of 100 and is structurally and functionally obsolete. Vehicles over 10 tons are prohibited from using the bridge, which prevents buses, fire trucks, and most freight deliveries from using the bridge. Without this project, the Sellwood Bridge will eventually need to be closed. Closing the bridge will remove a vital artery between downtown Portland and SE Portland and Clackamas County communities that carries about 30,000 vehicles per day. The result will be longer commutes, increased congestion and air pollution, and economic hardship to the Sellwood and other communities.

The Locally Preferred Alternative as adopted by Multnomah County, the City of Portland and Metro, will provide structural capacity to safely and reliably carry buses, trucks and streetcars. Unlike the very narrow existing bridge, the new bridge will have enough width for emergency vehicles to pass during heavy traffic and for the anticipated thousands of cyclists and pedestrians to cross safely. Construction of the new bridge is estimated to create approximately 5,000 family wage jobs, and will preserve many more jobs by providing a reliable connection in this regionally important transportation corridor.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will replace the one narrow sidewalk and will bring the bridge into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). These improvements will also better connect to the trails at both ends of the bridge. The existing seismic vulnerability of the bridge will be corrected when a new bridge is in place.

Environmental benefits will also result from a new structure. The existing structure discharges roadway stormwater runoff directly into the Willamette River, home to several federally-listed fish species. The new bridge will include state-of-the-art stormwater facilities to capture and treat run-off before it is released to the Willamette River. Removing the current structure will also eliminate lead based paint from falling into the Willamette River. The new bridge will also allow thousands of commuters each day to lower their carbon footprint by choosing to bicycle or take mass transit.

**6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? No**  
**If Yes, this project is priority of total requests for your organization.**  
(For example, priority 1 of 3 requests or priority 3 of 3 requests.)

**7. Are you requesting funds from other Members of Congress? Yes**  
**If Yes, which Members?** Representative Kurt Schrader, Representative David Wu

**8. Please select which type of eligible project under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the U.S. Code for which you are requesting funding.** (Note: The Committee will not accept requests for non-surface transportation projects, such as transportation museums, horse trails, or historic battlefields, as part of the High Priority Projects program.)

Highway Project (Title 23)

Type: Bridge

Located on a Federal-aid highway? Yes

Located on the National Highway System? No

Located on the Interstate System? No

**Public Transit Project (Chapter 53 of Title 49)**

Indicate Type with an 'X':

Passenger Vehicles

Transit Bus or Van

Transit Rail Car or Locomotive, including Streetcars

Transit Ferry

Transit Facilities

Vehicle Maintenance or Administration Facility

Passenger Facility, including Intermodal Facilities, stations, and terminals

Transit Rights-of-Way

Property Acquisition

Corridor Development

Rail Track Construction or Maintenance

Bus-only Lane Construction or Maintenance

Transit Equipment

Vehicle-related Equipment  System-related Equipment

New Start Project (A New Start project is a major *new* fixed guideway capital project seeking more than \$75 million in Federal funds.)

Small Start Project (A Small Start project is a *new* fixed guideway capital project seeking less than \$75 million in Federal funds and with a total estimated net capital cost of less than \$250 million.)

**Rail**

Intercity Passenger Rail (Not commuter rail. Commuter rail should be requested under public transit)

Is the project located within a corridor previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 104(d)(2) of Title 23, United States Code, or the Northeast Corridor? Select One

If Yes, which Corridor: Select One

Freight Rail

Select Rail Class

**Research**

University Transportation Center

Other

**9. Did the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, State Department of Transportation, or public transit agency confirm that the project is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code? Yes**

If Yes, which entity confirmed the project eligibility?

FHWA, FTA, State DOT, or Public Transit Agency:

Oregon DOT

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

Travis Brouwer, Federal Affairs Advisor, 503-280-5440  
According to the entity, is the project eligible under Title 23, Title 49, or both:  
Title 23

**10. Please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity that is an eligible recipient of the funds. Please include an address.** (For example, a State Department of Transportation, public transit agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, local government, or Federally-recognized tribe.) Note: If a project is a multi-state project, please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity which will serve as the lead agency for the project.

Multnomah County, Oregon  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600  
Portland OR 97214

**11. Please identify and describe the specific segment or activity for which project funding is requested.** (The request must finance at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity by either (1) the amount requested; or (2) the amount requested in addition to other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources.)

Project Description: (Include the specific terminus points of the project or activity, as appropriate.)

This request is for completing preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and final design. At the end of this phase, the County will be ready to construct the new bridge given funding availability.

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> construct                       | <input type="checkbox"/> plan         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> design             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conduct                         |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental review          |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> acquire right-of-way |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> conduct alternatives analysis |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> research                        | <input type="checkbox"/> develop      | <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrate                   | <input type="checkbox"/> deploy              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reconstruct                     | <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitate | <input type="checkbox"/> replace                       | <input type="checkbox"/> retrofit            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> install                         | <input type="checkbox"/> mitigate     | <input type="checkbox"/> implement                     | <input type="checkbox"/> realign             |

What is the total estimated cost?  
\$58,000,000

What amount is being requested? \$40,000,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 69%

If the percentage is less than 80% identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding that when combined with this request equal at least 80 percent.

Source: Federal (HBP and STP local allocations), State and County funds

Amount of Funding: \$18,000,000

**12. If you are requesting funding for a specific segment or activity, please describe the overall project of which this segment/activity is a part.**

Project Description: (Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences; up to 500 characters.)

The overall project is to replace the Sellwood Bridge with a new bridge and a new interchange between the bridge and OR Highway 43. The new bridge will have two motor vehicle lanes (one in each direction), and shoulders, bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. It will be designed to be constructed in phases that allow traffic to continue in this busy corridor during construction.

Total Project Estimated cost: \$321,000,000

**13. Is the project included in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan? No**

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

**14. Is the project included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)? Yes**

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the program(s), and the title of the program(s).

Listed in TIP: Yes

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): 08/16/2007

Title of the Program: Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program - Portland Metro Area

Listed in STIP: Yes

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): 01/16/2008

Title of the Program: 2008-2011 Final STIP

**15. If the project is an intercity passenger rail project is it included in the State Rail Plan?**

Select One

If Yes, please provide the date on which the Governor approved the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

**16. Please describe the current status of the project and the expected schedule for its completion.**

Federal-aid Highway projects:

In Environmental Review

Public Transit projects:

Select One if Applicable

Rail projects:

Select One if Applicable

Research:

Select One if Applicable

**17. What is the expected date of completion of the project for which you are requesting funding (Between FY2010-FY2020)? 2012**

**18. Does the project have regional or national significance?** (A project of regional and/or national significance is typically a high-cost transportation infrastructure facility that often includes multiple levels of government, agencies, modes of transportation, and transportation goals and planning processes that are not easily addressed or funded within existing surface transportation program categories. These projects have national and/or regional benefits, including improving economic productivity by facilitating international trade, relieving congestion, and improving transportation safety by facilitating passenger and freight movement.)

**Does the project have regional or national significance? Yes**

If Yes, Please describe the regional or national significance of the project. Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences (up to 500 characters):

The Sellwood Bridge is a regional bridge serving 30,000 vehicles daily between Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah counties. It is the only bridge in a ten mile stretch of the Willamette River between the Ross Island Bridge near downtown Portland and the I-205 Bridge near Oregon City. As such, it is an important link between downtown Portland and the redeveloping South Waterfront and the communities in southeast Portland and Clackamas County.

**19. Describe the safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits associated with completion of the project.**

Safety Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The project will enhance safety by reducing the hazard of head-on collisions between vehicles traveling on the narrow lanes. The addition of bike lanes and wider sidewalks will improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. The structural deficiencies of the bridge will be remedied allowing emergency response vehicles that weigh more than 10 tons to safely use the structure.

Economic Development Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The structural deficiencies of the bridge will be remedied allowing trucks that weigh more than 10 tons to safely use the structure. The project will eliminate the risk of a bridge closure which would harm businesses near the bridge. The project will yield approximately 5,000 family wage jobs.

Mobility Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

A new Sellwood Bridge will reduce congestion at each of the bridge heads as well as enhance accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists and will bring the bridge into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The structural deficiencies of the bridge will be remedied allowing public transit vehicles weighing more than 10 tons to use the structure. The redesigned interchange at the west end of the bridge will improve north/south traffic flow on Highway 43 near the bridge.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The new bridge will include state-of-the-art storm water facilities to capture and treat run-off before it is released to the Willamette River, home to several federally listed fish species. Increasing bridge use by bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders will help reduce air pollution.

**20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding? Yes**

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L.109-59)

Section: 1702/ 1702/ 1934

Project Number: 1495/ 4720/ 335

Amount of Funding: \$2,000,000/ \$3,000,000/ \$2,000,000

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated: \$0

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) (P.L. 105-178)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) (P.L. 104-59)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (P.L. 102-240)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Appropriations act(s)

Public Law Name:

Public Law Number:

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Other legislation:

Public Law Name:

Public Law Number:

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

**21. Has the project received any prior funding from a state, local, or private source? Yes**

Source: State of Oregon

Amount of Funding: \$1,500,000

Amount Obligated: \$1,500,000

**22. Please provide the proposed legislative text (in no more than 250 characters) of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill. Please use action verbs to begin the description (for example, "construct," "plan," "design," "engineer," "research," or "rehabilitate"). Please note that project line items carry the force of law, and can only be amended through subsequent public laws. If Congressional intent (as established through answers listed on this form) is different from the legislative text, the entity administering the project is required to adhere to the statutory language.**

Engineer, acquire right-of-way and final design the Sellwood Bridge, Multnomah County Oregon

**23. Are you enclosing the letter referenced at the top of this form with the required formatting? Yes**

**24. Notes or anything else we should know about the project request:**

In addition to the Federal and State funds identified above, other funds secured and obligated for the Sellwood Bridge replacement include: \$2,700,000 (County);

\$12,800,000 (Highway Bridge Program-local allocation) and \$2,000,000 (Surface Transportation Program-local allocation).

**Please return this form and at least one local or state letter of support  
no later than Friday, April 24, 2009 (via email) to:**

**@mail.house.gov**

**Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillman, (202) 225-4811  
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503) 231-2300**