



# FRENCH PRAIRIE BRIDGE PROJECT

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## Project to address key questions about proposed bridge

The City of Wilsonville is beginning a planning and design project for the proposed French Prairie Bridge—a bicycle/pedestrian/emergency responder crossing over the Willamette River. The project aims to address the following questions:

- Where are the preferred landing points for the bridge?
- What is the preferred bridge type?
- What is the estimated cost of the preferred bridge and how might its construction be funded?

The project will result in preliminary engineering plans for the bridge and is expected to conclude in late 2018. At project completion, the City and

its regional partners will have the information needed to decide whether to pursue final bridge design and construction.

## Crossing the Willamette

Currently, the only bridge over the Willamette River in the 30-mile stretch between Newberg and Oregon City is the heavily trafficked Interstate 5 (I-5) Boone Bridge.

Pedestrians and cyclists wanting to cross the river in the Wilsonville area must use the I-5 road shoulder next to cars and trucks traveling at high speeds. With narrow shoulders that offer no separation from traffic, walking or biking on the Boone Bridge is an unpleasant and potentially dangerous experience.

The French Prairie Bridge is proposed to provide cyclists and pedestrians with safe access across the Willamette River. The

bridge would serve local residents and fill a missing link in a cycling route connecting the Portland metro area with the French Prairie region of the Willamette Valley and communities as far south as Eugene.

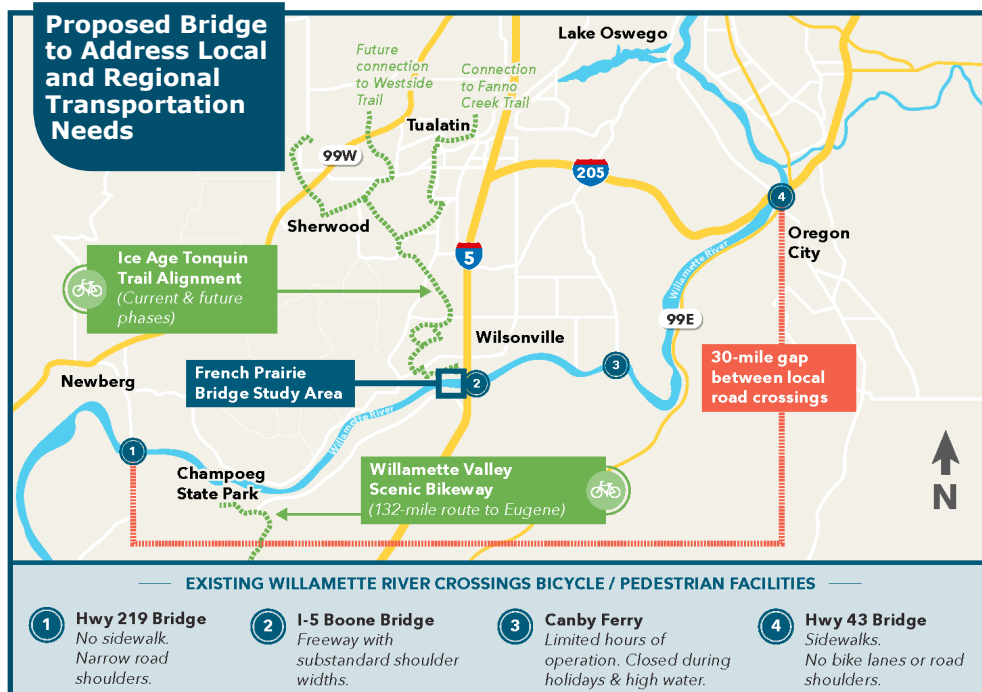
The new bridge is also proposed to address emergency response needs. When I-5 traffic is blocked on the Boone Bridge, first responders could use the French Prairie Bridge for emergency access to incidents on the freeway and to populations south of the river.

## Two decades in the making

The French Prairie Bridge Project is the continuation of Wilsonville community planning efforts that first identified the need for a safe bicycle and pedestrian crossing over the Willamette River more than 20 years ago. The concept of a separate bike/ped bridge was most recently adopted in the City's Transportation Systems Plan and Tourism Development Strategy.

Metro awarded the City a \$1.25 million federal grant to conduct the current bridge planning and preliminary design project. To define the project study area, the City conducted a feasibility study of potential bridge locations in 2015.

The 2015 feasibility study identified significant challenges with potential sites east of I-5, near Charbonneau, including topography and property impacts. Based on this study, the Wilsonville City Council decided the French Prairie Bridge Project would focus on potential bridge sites west of I-5, between the I-5 Boone Bridge and the Portland and Western Railroad Bridge.



## What's ahead

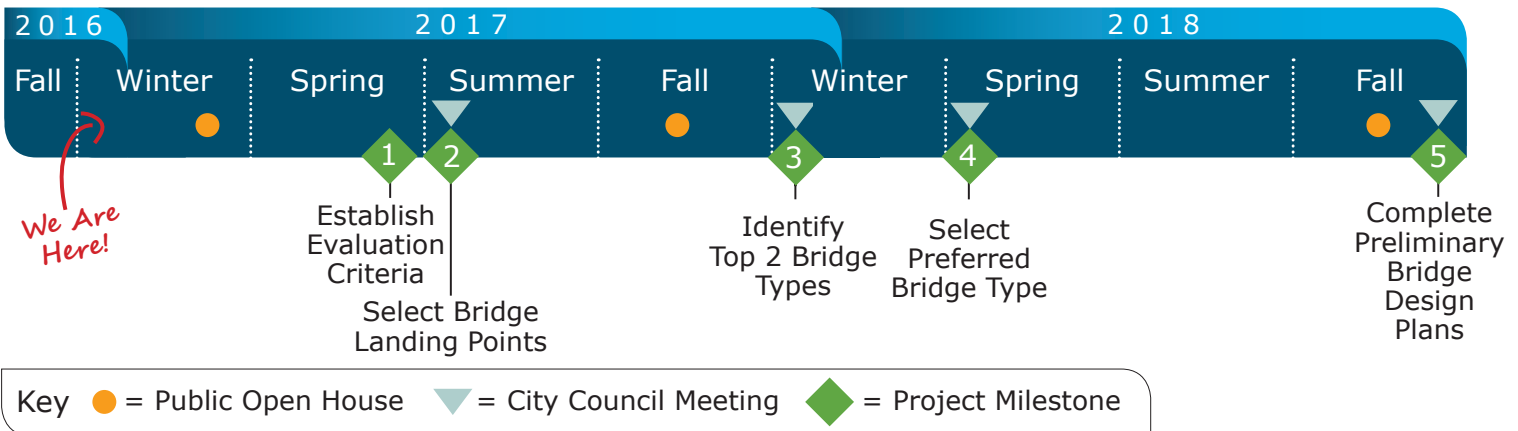
The City has selected OBEC Consulting Engineers to lead the French Prairie Bridge Project. The consultant team will conduct environmental, transportation, and engineering studies to inform decisions about the bridge. This includes work to identify and minimize the bridge's potential impacts to the river and other sensitive natural resources.

Public input will be important to help identify the preferred bridge landing points and the preferred bridge style. Open houses will be held to present and obtain feedback on bridge alternatives.

The project is scheduled to be completed by late 2018. The process of planning and developing preliminary designs for the bridge is organized around the following milestones:

- 1 Establish Evaluation Criteria:** Evaluation criteria will serve as a tool for comparing alternatives and making decisions about the proposed bridge.
- 2 Select Bridge Landing Points:** The City Council will choose where the bridge should land on each side of the river after an evaluation of potential alignments between I-5 and the Railroad Bridge.
- 3 Identify Top Two Bridge Types:** Bridge types representing a range of styles and costs will be considered based on the selected bridge landing points. Two bridge types will be selected for detailed study.
- 4 Select Preferred Bridge Type:** Photo realistic drawings and detailed analysis of the top two bridge types will be prepared to inform the City Council's selection of a preferred bridge type.
- 5 Complete Preliminary (30%) Design Plans:** The engineering team will develop the preliminary design for the bridge structure and its connection points on each side of the river.


## Anticipated project schedule



A **Project Task Force** comprised of local residents, emergency responders, and other regional stakeholders is reviewing public input and providing recommendations to the Wilsonville City Council on key project decisions. The group is co-chaired by Clackamas County Chair Jim Bernard and Wilsonville City Councilor Charlotte Lehan, who serve as non-voting members of the Task Force.

A **Technical Advisory Committee** is providing advice to the Project Management Team and the Task Force on regulatory and technical aspects of bridge siting, design, and funding. Members include staff from the City of Wilsonville, Clackamas County, Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and state and federal permitting agencies.

Visit the project website for a complete list of Project Task Force and Technical Advisory Committee members.



### Get Involved!

Multiple public open houses will be held during the planning and design project. You can also visit the project website to stay informed and share your thoughts with the project team.

At [www.FrenchPrairieBridgeProject.org](http://www.FrenchPrairieBridgeProject.org):

- Sign up to receive project updates by email.
- Submit comments and questions.
- Review project reports, the meeting calendar, and frequently asked questions.