

MEMORANDUM**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD**

DATE : January 21, 2009**TO:** Springfield Planning Commission**TRANSMITTAL
MEMORANDUM****FROM:** Mark Metzger, Planner**SUBJECT:** WILLAMETTE GREENWAY OVERLAY DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT (WG) &
DISCRETIONARY USE (DU) APPLICATION—I-5 WILLAMETTE RIVER BRIDGE
PROJECT PHASE I

ISSUE: A public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for February 18th to consider a Willamette Greenway Overlay District Discretionary Use application related to the Willamette River I-5 Bridge project. ODOT representatives and staff will brief Commission members on Phase I of the project. No action will be required by the Commission at this work session.

Phase I involves: development of temporary construction staging areas and access routes; construction of temporary work bridges; demolition of the existing Willamette River Bridge; construction of new bridge sub-structure; and temporary and permanent bicycle and pedestrian path improvements. The Phase I work described in the application is planned to take up to four years. Construction will begin in 2009 and continue through 2012. Demolition of the existing bridges and construction of the new facilities will require four summers of in-water work, which is only allowed from June 1 to October 31.

The Commission will consider a separate package of development applications for Phase II which will involve construction of the replacement bridge at a future date.

DISCUSSION: The focus of the Willamette Greenway Discretionary Use permit is on the impacts of the activity on the riparian area along the Willamette River. These impacts include both environmental and aesthetic impacts. At the February 18th hearing, the Commission will be asked to review staff findings with respect to anticipated impacts that will occur during Phase I. As mentioned above, Phase I is related to removal of the decommissioned bridge so many of the impacts will be temporary, but even these impacts must be evaluated as part of the permitting process.

The packet of application materials is extensive. Staff has attached an excerpt from the narrative portion of the application. It is not expected that the Commission will have digested all of the content in the attachment before the work session. It is hoped that by providing the narrative information will give members a head start on preparing for the February hearing. More complete application materials will be included in the Commission packet for the hearing.

Attachment 1: Excerpt from the ODOT Application