

W.T.A.

Memo previously distributed to the Commissioners for the August 25, 2010 Board Meeting

PRESENTATION/Naming the New Willamette River Interstate 5 bridge the "Whilamut Passage Bridge."

In response to an inquiry from a Lane County Commissioner, please accept this formal request to begin a process culminating in a public hearing conducted by you, to consider subsequent approval by Lane County Commissioners for naming the new Interstate 5 bridge the Whilamut Passage Bridge.

Commissioner Handy asked for a cost figure relating to signage. ODOT project manager Dick Upton believes that the total cost will come to between \$1000 and \$1500. This cost accounts for a sign at each end of the new bridge. These signs are already budgeted into the project, as signage saying "WILLAMETTE RIVER". "WHILAMUT PASSAGE BRIDGE" would be added to each sign.

We presented at an April work session before the Springfield City Council -- with very positive responses -- and a process is underway to present and have a public hearing with the Eugene City Council in July. It would be facilitative for us to also make a presentation to you in July, if you are able to schedule it.

Thank you,

David Sonnichsen, Chair Government Relations Subcommittee Citizen Planning Committee for the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park

member ODOT I-5 WRB Community Advisory Group (CAG)

CAG representative

ODOT I-5 WRB Project Development Team

In 2008 ODOT's Community Advisory Group endorsed Whilamut Passage as the theme for a new Willamette River Interstate 5 bridge shared by Springfield and Eugene. The purpose of the theme was to guide aesthetic enhancements related to the bridge, such as cultural and historical interpretation, naturescaping, and art. The name was coined by Douglas Beauchamp of the Lane Arts Council. Whilamut is a Kalapuya word whose English translation is, "Where the river ripples and runs fast." Passage refers to the nexus of movement associated with the bridge: motorized vehicles on roadways; pedestrian and bicycle paths; the railroad; water and aquatic life in the river and riparian corridor; and the passage of time itself.

In October 2009, ODOT's Design Enhancement Panel voted to endorse Whilamut Passage as the name of the bridge. This was followed by endorsement votes from the Citizen Planning Committee for the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park, and ODOT's Community Advisory Group, both to name the bridge Whilamut Passage.

In ODOT's informational video on construction of this bridge, the Whilamut name and translation is featured. From <http://www.WillametteBridge.org>> please scroll down to "Web Cast" and view the short YouTube film.

To become more familiar with the relevance of this name to the parkland surrounding the north anchorage of the bridge, please consult the interactive map at

<http://emc.rio.com/KalapuyaMap.html>>

By clicking on the various camera icons, you can see photographs of the 11 Kalapuya Talking Stones in the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park. (ODOT, the park's Citizen Planning Committee, the Eugene Parks and Recreation division and Willamalane Park and Recreation District are jointly installing four more Talking Stones in conjunction with the bridge project.) By clicking on the blue ovals, you will hear the Kalapuya name for each Talking Stone, spoken by tribal elder Esther Stutzman. Ms. Stutzman was an invited speaker at ODOT's bridge groundbreaking event on August 11, 2009.