

DJC

2014 TopProjects

FIRST PLACE TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT TEAM + STATS:

Location: Eugene – Springfield, Oregon

Cost: \$204.6 million

Start date: May 2008

Completion date: August 2013

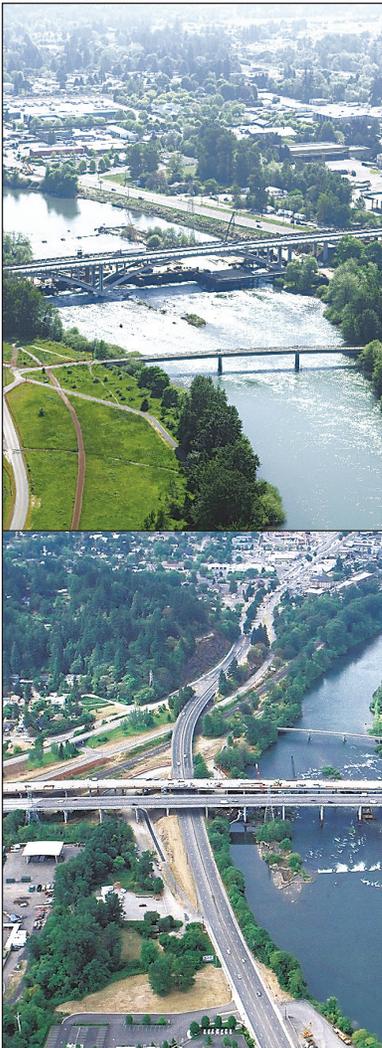
Owner/developer:

Oregon Department of Transportation

Engineer: OBEC Consulting Engineers

General contractor:

Hamilton Construction Co.



Bundle 220: I-5 – Willamette River Bridge

SUBMITTED BY: OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION

The Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge stands as an example of an all-inclusive effort that not merely met, but exceeded expectations on multiple levels.

The Oregon Department of Transportation sought public involvement from the start through open houses, social media and participatory groups in a project that illustrates a bridge as more than a structure spanning a divide.

“It’s impressive when you first see it,” said Jeff Firth of Hamilton Construction. “It’s sleek, skinny, elegant, and from a construction standpoint, presses engineering boundaries, sequencing parks, the cities, bikes, rail and traffic.”

The structure incorporates three distinct methods of bridging – reinforced box, reinforced deck girder and signature arch span – with a focus on addressing the task of a transportation feature while considering environmental and public concerns.

The nearly 1,800-foot span is situated in a complex urban environment, crossing railroad

tracks, a four-lane highway, and a river with sensitive habitat for trout, salmon and chub.

ODOT worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to recognize the significance of the bridge named “Whilamut”, the Kalapuya word for “where the water ripples.”

The double arch touches down once in the riverbed with minimal disruption to a sensitive natural environment. The strong, but lightweight bridge also shares accolades with the new World Trade Center building in New York as recipients of 2013 Slag Cement Association Project of the Year awards.

Completion of the Willamette River Bridge project restored and enhanced a vital transportation link in the highway connecting the Western U.S to Canada and Mexico. At the same time, it has made travel easier for local drivers and has improved access for emergency vehicles and commuters between two vibrant Oregon communities.