

Hamilton's Portland Ave. to Port of Tacoma Rd. Project Sets the Tone for 2015

There's a popular song from the 1990's that pretty much sums up what kind of year 2015 will be for Hamilton. As the Green Day song goes: "Another turning point – a fork stuck in the road."

For Hamilton the award of the \$134 million I-5 Portland Ave. to Port of Tacoma Rd. project represents the giant pitchfork-sized fork in the road. Hamilton has re-configured its resources to assure a successful start to the project and the Portland Ave. team – led by Jeff Firth and Randy Burg – is putting the wheels in motion for mobilizing and getting started at the site just north of the Tacoma Dome on I-5. In typical Hamilton fashion, we are hitting the ground running in full stride. Property for a field office has been leased at the Washington town of Fife where we will co-locate with Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The project management team (in addition to Jeff and Randy — Craig Almont, Reid Highberger, Mark Sitz, Kevin Parrish and Jeff Phillips) is preparing submittals. In their 'spare time', the guys are figuring out where

they and their families are going to live during the next three years.

The Project

Simply stated, this project will widen I-5 in Tacoma from Portland Avenue to the Port of Tacoma Road to provide room for a new HOV lane in each direction and four general-purpose lanes in each direction. It is a tough, technical job that takes place under heavy, heavy traffic. To accomplish the widening, Hamilton will work with WSDOT to rebuild the I-5 Puyallup River bridges, reconstruct the I-5/SR 167 interchange, improve the Portland Avenue interchange and repave all the lanes on I-5 within the project limits. A portion of the project is located on the reservation of the Puyallup Indian Tribe and as such Hamilton is working closely with the Puyallups to augment our work force.

But that's not all...

Even before this job was awarded Hamilton had a great deal of bidding success in 2014. The goal for 2014 was to add \$150 million of new work and we were well



Project team: (Seated in front from left: Randy Burg and Reid Highberger) Back row from left: Craig Almont, Jeff Firth, Kevin Parrish and Mark Sitz.

on our way to reaching that goal before Portland Ave. We continue big work throughout Oregon, four jobs in Alaska, three new projects in Colorado and rail work throughout the West. In total Hamilton added \$239.5 million worth of work to its backlog during 2014 – the biggest year in the 76 year history of the company.

Needless to say, the focus of the organization shifts as a result of all this and in the months to come you can be assured you will be meeting lots and lots of new colleagues —probably taking on some new responsibilities—and—to paraphrase the Green Day song: We hope you'll have the time of your life! ■

WRB Named Best Transportation Project in the Nation

The I-5 Willamette River Bridge project—the largest bridge project ever undertaken by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)—and built by CM/GC contractor Hamilton Construction Co. – received construction's top honors today from ENR – the Engineering News Record. The project, earlier named as the Best Project over all in the Pacific Northwest was recently named the Best Transportation Project in the entire nation! The project also won top honors in the Safety category for the Northwest. Accepting the award during the Northwest Regional competition in Seattle were Project Manager Jeff Firth and Construction Manager Con O'Connor. ■



I-5 Portland Ave. project site as it appears now.



Artist rendering of new bridge to be completed by 2018.



In this issue of the Herald we will continue our two part series on the Hamilton Project Engineers (PEs). As in the last issue we will be talking about what they do, what they like best about their jobs, and how their positions contribute to the overall success of the company.

In addition, we are going to explore something else—In this issue the PE's will talk about their life experiences, hobbies and ways of looking at the world that make the Hamilton "culture" a uniquely good fit for them. Clearly when the PE's talk about what they enjoy most at Hamilton it's more than just the job: Each has found his sense of place. And as you think about it, maybe they're not so different than the rest of us here at Hamilton. So take a read and see if you might resemble some of these remarks.

You Just Might Be A Hamilton Project Engineer If... Five Traits that Define Hamilton PE's

1. You're an independent thinker.

A number of the Hamilton's PE's have thrived on life experiences that pushed them into independence at a relatively early age. They say their independence serves them well here at Hamilton.

Take **Mark Sitz** for example. Mark was raised on an isolated ranch about 50 miles outside of Burns, Oregon along the Malheur River. The closest high school was 50 miles away and fierce winters frequently made roads impassable, so like many of the ranch families, Mark's parents had little alternative but to set up boarding school arrangements for him. At the beginning of each school year, the influx of 80 students who attended Crane High School almost doubled the town's population. Mark would go home on weekends if the weather allowed. Says Mark, "I could have gotten away with a lot until report cards came out. Some kids handled that lack of structure differently, but for me, I found it made me work harder to do the right thing." That could explain why after less than two years of employment, Hamilton recognized Mark's self-starter qualities and selected him to serve as PE on one of the largest jobs in its history.



Kyle Behla grew up in Snohomish, Washington. While Snohomish's location on the Puget Sound makes it less remote, Kyle's dad's worked as a pilot in Alaska-- a job which kept him away for sometimes months at



a time. His mom, who worked for Amtrak, was only home on weekends. The four Behla kids had a nanny, but as Kyle recalls, her main responsibility was to drive him and his three sisters to places they needed to be—most of the time, they pretty much took care of themselves. That didn't stop Kyle from becoming a standout athlete in high school where he was on the swimming team or from going on to college at Central Washington in Ellensburg where he majored in Construction Management.

Kyle said his biggest surprise when he started work at Hamilton in June of 2014 was the amount of freedom he was given on how to approach the job. "At Hamilton the expectations are clear, they are clear about the results they want, but they don't dictate how you go about it to get it done. You have the freedom to do it the way you want to do it. I liked it, but it was trial by fire for sure," said Kyle.

PE Jordan Marks, a native of Eugene, OR who has worked at Hamilton two years in April, said the independence of the project team is one of his favorite aspects of working at Hamilton as well. "You need that kind of autonomy to give people the opportunity to really think about how to do the work. That's what develops leadership."



Austin Dukowitz grew up "all over" the state famous for independent souls – Alaska. He lived 10 years in Juneau and then four years in Fairbanks where he attended the University of Alaska and majored in Civil Engineering. Austin agrees

with his fellow PE's and says his best advice to anyone new to Hamilton is this: Pay attention and hold on!!



2. You are fascinated with how mechanical things work.

All of the Hamilton PE's recall a fascination from an early age with figuring out how things work and no fear of getting their hands dirty to see why they don't.

"I'll admit it—I'm a complete Gear Head," Says Austin Dukowitz. "I'm always tearing apart engines – I love the old muscle cars. My favorite 'driving car' is my '84 Firebird and my favorite 'project car' – the one that needs the most work-- is a '72 (Dodge) Charger. Both have the old carbureted engines.

My grandfather was a gunsmith so I learned a crazy amount about guns growing up and I like to do a little bit of hunting.

Jordan Marks says his fascination with heavy equipment was what first attracted him to construction.

Kyle Behla agrees, "I've always been a tinkerer. I like hands on. My

Dad owned a pile-driving company before I was born and always talked about that. One of the reasons I came to Hamilton was because we do lots of big pile and I get to work alongside the people who can teach me all they've learned about it over the years. Frank Martin and Josh Rodriguez are great – Frank is the kind of guy that comes to work on a Monday morning and shows you something he 'whipped up for fun' over the weekend that is actually a great invention that makes work easier."

3. You love the outdoors.

Hiking, hunting, fishing, snowboarding, dirt biking, skiing, camping: Who at Hamilton doesn't love these things?

When he was young, Kyle Behla loved the freedom of being in the Washington hills hunting, later dirt bike riding and snowboarding. Kyle said that at Hamilton he enjoys that same sense of freedom when he has the opportunity to work outside.

Jordan Marks adds his latest hobby in addition to all of the above is "preservation of his body"—a sport he's started to

Hamilton PE's: continued on page 5.



Hamilton PE's: continued from page 5.

pursue as a follow up to dirt biking. Jordan also loves to hunt with a bow and got his first elk with a bow the second season he went out.

Austin Dukowitz began snowboarding when he was in eighth grade while living in Juneau. He has enjoyed the opportunity to work on Hamilton's Colorado jobs and during off hours has snowboarded Keystone and Breckenridge. "I'm looking forward to doing some backcountry boarding in Colorado this spring," he said.

4. You're proud to create legacy

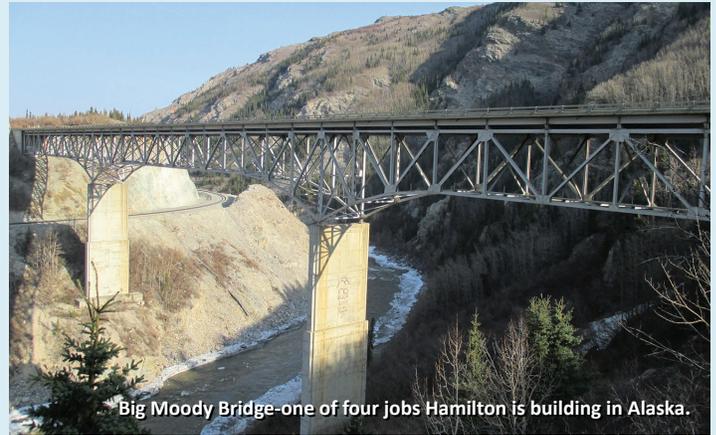
Right now Jordan Marks is working at the Colorado Dam project in Bend, Oregon. "We're working on the first white water park in the state of Oregon. Building a playground on the water – how cool is that?!" Jordan beams. "A bridge is a beautiful structure and it's functional. That's what I like best about building them."

5. You love being part of

a good team.

Austin Dukowitz recalls, "I started working at Hamilton the middle of May 2014. I've worked at Harrisburg, Oregon, Healy, Alaska just hours from my college town, and also at Stengel's Hill in Colorado. "No matter where I go I've been surrounded by good people. During these past months its always been more than the job – it's the people...like at Harrisburg setting up the translation systems with Pat Prescott, Jack Young and Josh Rodriguez."

Jordan goes on to say that for him, Hamilton is "right sized". "We're not a huge national contractor. I like it that I can walk into (Senior VP) Bob Sherman's office and feel welcomed—as opposed to not even knowing who the boss is. We don't get plugged into one narrow job here at Hamilton—we get exposed to a broad range of experience. When I heard Jeff Firth speak at Oregon State during the time I was in the Construction Management program . . .and then



Big Moody Bridge—one of four jobs Hamilton is building in Alaska.

Bob Sherman. I could tell they truly loved what they were doing, I liked their demeanor. I knew that was who I wanted to work for!"

What no one at Hamilton knows about you:

Jordan Marks: "On December 14th Molly and I got engaged. We're thinking of a June/early summer wedding. I would come to the wedding any time of year, but if Molly wants me to be around to celebrate anniversaries in the future we needed to get married before

the opening of hunting season."

Austin Dukowitz: "When we were working on the Big Moody in Healy that was my first experience hanging over the edge of a bridge 200 ft. above the river. I was glad that I was OK with it!"

Kyle Behla: "I don't think anyone here at Hamilton knows I was a competitive swimmer in high school."

Mark Sitz: "I like to brew beer... and I don't think most people know I attended a boarding school." ■

NEWS

Jan/Feb/March Anniversaries

Brad Sullivan	37
Wendy Cobarrubia	29
Dave Weddle	24
Bryan Cloe	20
Eric Hill	17
Frankie Alvis	16
Bruce Ellingsen	13
Clark Cleve	12
Michael Fisk	11
Richard Dugan	11
Joe Hampton	10
Brian Allison	9
Peder Flockoi	9
Andres Juarez	8
Steven Brown	8
Richard Carden	8
Patrick Sharp	6
Randy Reynolds	6
Denver Hylemon	4
Linda Scronce-Johnson	3
Michael Moen	3
Bobby Parker	3
Ron Bennett	3
Patrick Mclauchlin	3
Cathy Russell-Kahn	2
Jesse Peterson	2
Jordan Marks	2
Kyle Rowe	2
Darrin Clayburn	2
Randal Hahn	1
Jorge Munoz	1
Lynn Wilttrout	1



Beam setting at I-5 Fern Valley, Medford, OR

Greetings from the Fern Valley Interchange Team!

ODOT Project Information Manager for the Fern Valley Project, Gary Leaming in a year-end report to the public said, "The (Fern Valley) project team made great strides in the interchange area, and we look forward to another successful year as we continue work on the new bridges and begin shifting traffic onto the new alignments east of I-5. There is still much work to be done between now and September of 2016!" ■

Happy Trails to Judy Betts!

Eleven year Hamilton employee Judy Betts will be taking an early retirement in January. New hire Heidi Wilson will be working with Linda Mitchem to assume a number of Judy's duties including administrative support for human resources, hiring, and safety. Judy's roll as Diversity/DMWESB coordinator will be transferred to Linda Scronce-Johnson. And Ron Bennett will become Hamilton's EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) Officer. Judy – we wish you the best! ■

PARTNER'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air and another great Hamilton Herald arrives like a sunbeam at dawn. With all the fantastic people that work here at Hamilton, the Herald always yields an incredible read. I look with keen interest at the Hamilton People section, especially Anniversaries and Project Engineers (page 2 & 3). Dave Weddle and Bryan Cloe hit 20 + years of stellar service and experience this spring: Guys, we are very appreciative of all you do! Next is followed by the new PE group of Mark, Kyle, Jordan and Austin: Guys we see a bright future for you! Whoever said the current folks are fading and the "new" generation is weak, clearly has not met "the Hamilton People".

The building teams gave the estimating department a challenge. They said pick up the

work and we will Go and Grow! The estimating team once again delivers as the new projects list is very grand. New to the list are: US 101 Siuslaw River Bridge- Florence, Oregon; Alvey-Fairview, Oregon; Sells Phase 2- Arizona; Lowell Blvd to W 120 Ave.- Broomfield, Colorado; Portland Ave. to Port of Tacoma Rd.- Tacoma, and Washington BNSF- Camas, Washington. Some jobs we pick up provide grist for the mill; without them things would grind to a stop. The just completed Murphy Road project could be considered one of those. However our new projects provide much more, a new dimension and they become a lever providing great future opportunity for all of us.

Opportunity abounds and some understand the phrase...

Strike while the iron is hot- Congratulations to: The Tacoma Team (see page 1); Frank Martin, a field savvy new Hamilton Superintendent who is moving to Colorado; Jordan Marks, a Project Engineer providing "Can-Do" energy, also moving to Colorado; and Colin Quinn, a new Hamilton Superintendent moving to Alaska, has those up North all smiles. Stay tuned, as many more are Going and Growing.

American Concrete and Bridge Access Specialties are also seizing the opportunity as both predict 2015 to be the biggest and best year ever and continue to add new clients and employees to the teams.

As shown with the Hammy Awards, Safety continues to be a total team effort and the smart hard work sends us all home safely.



So to sum it up, when we say 2015 is an Exciting Year, we mean it.

Much thanks to each and every one of you. ■

*Sincerely,
Bob Sherman*



2213 S "F" Street
P.O. Box 659
Springfield, OR 97477



Inside This Spring 2015 Issue:

Portland Ave. to Port of Tacoma Rd	1
Hamilton People: Project Engineers	2
News	3
Partner's Message	4
Hammies	Insert