

I-5: Delta Park to Lombard Project

What is this Project?

Interstate 5 currently narrows to two southbound lanes between Delta Park (at Victory Boulevard) and the Lombard Interchange. This two-lane section creates a bottleneck and causes congestion. In addition, the Columbia Boulevard interchange, which is in this project area, is not a full interchange. Vehicles cannot get on to I-5 going northbound from Columbia Blvd, and they cannot exit I-5 southbound to Columbia Blvd. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) wants to improve efficiency and safety in this area by widening the freeway to three lanes in the southbound direction and providing better access to I-5 from Columbia Blvd in all directions. This project has been identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Portland/Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Strategic Plan Recommendations.

Before ODOT builds such a project, it must first evaluate the impacts of building the project against not building the project with an Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment (EA) process was started in January 2003 and will evaluate both the positive and negative social, economic, and environmental impacts of constructing this project. The EA process identifies community concerns, ideas and issues, develops alternative solutions, evaluates the impacts of those alternatives and selects a preferred alternative.

A Citizen's Advisory Committee and an Environmental Justice Work Group are closely following this project and are advising ODOT at each critical point in the development of the project.



What alternative solutions are being considered?



An alternative is a proposed idea for addressing the problems in the I-5 Delta Park to Lombard area. In June, after much discussion and public input, three build alternatives and a no-build alternative were selected for further study as a part of the project environmental assessment process.

The three build alternatives are:

Go West – Full Columbia Ramps	Go West – Denver Connector	North to Schmeer
<p>Phase I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen I-5 southbound to 3 lanes with possibility of one lane as a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane Re-construct southbound Columbia Blvd. on-ramp in existing configuration/ alignment. <p>Phase II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide full access to I-5 from Columbia Blvd by making the Columbia Blvd interchange a full directional interchange by adding southbound OFF and northbound ON movements to the interchange. 	<p>Phase I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen I-5 southbound to 3 lanes with possibility of one lane as a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane Re-construct southbound Columbia Blvd. on-ramp in existing configuration/ alignment <p>Phase II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide better access to I-5 and Columbia Blvd by improving the connection between Columbia Blvd and Denver Avenue for southbound OFF and northbound ON movements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen I-5 southbound to 3 lanes with possibility of one lane as a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane Eliminate Columbia Boulevard interchange and relocate access to and from I-5 via two new bridges across the Columbia Slough to a new interchange at Schmeer Road This alternative does not require phasing. Moving the interchange to Schmeer Road provides full directional access to I-5 from Columbia Blvd without the need to phase this project.

How will the alternatives be evaluated?

Each of the alternatives will be compared to one another. Evaluation factors have been developed and will be used to tell you how each alternative that is studied will:

- Improve Transportation Performance
- Conform to state, regional and local plans
- Avoid or Minimize Adverse Impacts on:
 - Other Transportation Facilities
 - The Natural Environment
 - The Cultural and Built Environment
 - Neighborhoods
- Provide Environmental Justice



The cost of each alternative and the construction impacts will also be compared.

What is the schedule for this project?

Identify issues	Jan -- Apr 2003
Develop/screening alternatives	May -- Oct 2003
Analyze alternatives	Nov 2003 -- Aug 2004
Public review of findings and preparation of project documentation	March 2004 – Jan 2005
Public review of draft recommendations	Feb - March 2005
Final recommendations	Aug 2005
Construction (pending approval & funding)	Summer 2007

How can you be involved?

A Citizen's Advisory Committee and an Environmental Justice Work Group are advising ODOT. The public is also invited to give input at several key decision-making points in the project. To get involved you can:

- **Attend** Citizen's Advisory Committee and Environmental Justice Work Group meetings. (check website or call for monthly meeting dates/locations)
- **Attend** Public Open Houses and/ or Hearings at key decision points. **The next opportunity is an Open House that is tentatively scheduled for June 2004.**
- **Visit** the Project Website where you can get project updates: **[www. I-5partnership.com](http://www.I-5partnership.com)** – click **“Go to the Delta Park-Lombard website”**
- **Call** the Project Phonenumber for you to call and provide input or ask questions: **1-866-STUDY I-5 (1-866-788-3945)**
- **Invite** a speaker to your meeting. Knowledgeable staff are available to talk to your neighborhood association, community group, church, or business about the project.

For more information or to get involved, please contact either of the following:

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