

# Oak Grove-Lake Oswego Pedestrian / Bicycle Bridge Feasibility Study



## Study purpose

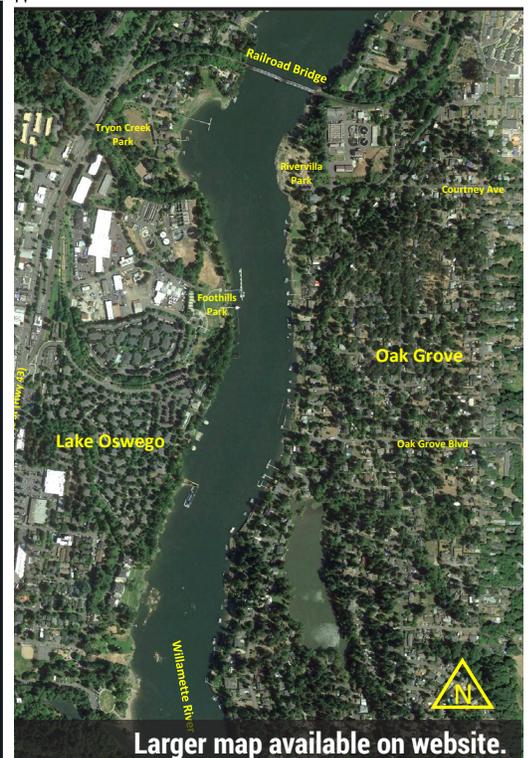
The purpose of the study is to determine the feasibility of a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the Willamette River between Oak Grove and Lake Oswego. Comments received during previous planning indicated great demand for a bridge at that location. However, questions remain regarding the feasibility of the project:

- Are “landing locations” for the bridge available on publicly-owned property on both sides of the river?
- Is it possible to connect to other pedestrian/bicycle trails without interfering with existing uses?
- How much would it cost to construct such a bridge and who would pay for it?
- What steps are needed to build a bridge at that location?
- If a bridge is built, who would own and maintain it?

## For more information

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www.clackamas.us/transportation/oglo



Larger map available on website.



Metro



# Frequently asked questions

## Who is conducting this study and why is it being done now?

This study is being carried out by Clackamas County, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie and Metro. We are studying this now because many people have asked for such a bridge and there may be funding available in the next few years through Metro, the State of Oregon and/or the federal government that would pay most or all of the costs of the bridge. We have a better chance of receiving funding if the feasibility study is already complete.

## Why do we need another bridge across the Willamette River?

There is no bridge across the Willamette River for pedestrians and bicyclists between the Sellwood Bridge in Portland and the OR 43 "Arch" Bridge in Oregon City, a distance of about 10 miles. The addition of this bridge between Oak Grove and Lake Oswego will reduce that 10-mile trip to a pedestrian or bicycle trip of less than a mile and connect to bike and pedestrian pathways on both sides of the river. This will benefit everyone who needs to travel between the two communities for work, shopping or recreation and also help reduce travel on some of our busiest streets.

## Can't you just add on to the railroad bridge?

There are a couple of reasons that adding to the railroad bridge is not an option. Please see map on other side.

- The most important is that Union Pacific Railroad, the company that owns the bridge, has made it clear that it does not want bikes or pedestrians near the trains for safety reasons, and as local government agencies we don't have the authority to force a private business to allow public use of their facilities.
- In addition, on the Oak Grove-Milwaukie side of the river, the access to the railroad line is challenging and very narrow, which would make it difficult and unsafe for use by the public.

## Will emergency vehicles like fire trucks, ambulances and law enforcement be able to use the bridge?

Lake Oswego and Oak Grove both have high levels of emergency services, and emergency services agencies have not expressed a need for a connection between the communities. In addition, designing a bridge for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles would greatly increase the bridge's cost and impact on the communities on both sides of the river.

## Get involved!

There will be many opportunities for the public to get involved.

- Public workshops
- Community meetings
- Online surveys

Details of all public involvement opportunities will be posted at [www.clackamas.us/transportation/oglo](http://www.clackamas.us/transportation/oglo).

## Need more information?

For questions or concerns, contact Project Manager Stephen Williams at [swilliams@clackamas.us](mailto:swilliams@clackamas.us) or 503-742-4696.

## If the bridge is built now for bikes and pedestrians, could it be expanded later to add transit or cars?

A bridge for bikes and pedestrians is built quite differently than a bridge for transit or cars, and it would not be feasible to build it now for bikes and pedestrians and expand it later. Bridges for transit or cars also are much more expensive than bike and pedestrian bridges so we would not build it now for transit and cars unless we were absolutely sure it would be needed.

## What will the bridge cost?

At this point we don't know what the bridge would cost. This feasibility study will allow us to determine the cost of the bridge and the cost trade-offs of different bridge locations. We expect to have a good cost estimate for the bridge when we finish the study in late 2019.

## Will homes or businesses be removed to make way for this bridge?

We are only studying publicly-owned properties such as parks as possible landing locations for the bridge on both sides of the river so that we can avoid impacts to homes or businesses.

## Will the bridge affect navigation on the river?

As part of this study, we will work with the U.S. Coast Guard to design the bridge so that it will not affect navigation on the river.

## Has the decision about this bridge already been made or will you still listen to the public? How can I get involved?

The decision about this bridge has not been made. This study will help determine whether such a bridge is even feasible based on costs, benefits and impacts to the community, and other factors. There will be many opportunities for the public to get involved in coming months at public workshops, community meetings and online. We encourage everyone to look at the project website to find out when and where meetings will be held, and to submit comments and questions at [www.clackamas.us/transportation/oglo](http://www.clackamas.us/transportation/oglo).