The Oregon Department of Transportation is currently designing Phase 1 of the Newberg Dundee Bypass. Construction will begin in 2013 and be complete in 2016. Phase 1 will construct approximately four miles of new highway from OR 219 in Newberg to OR 99W in Dundee, with a travel lane in each direction.

Phase 1 includes over ten bridge structures - where the bypass crosses over creeks, wetlands, railroads, or travels over or under other local roads. Some bridge structures will be seen by only bypass drivers or only the local community. Some structures will be highly visible to all – local travelers, through traffic and nearby residences and businesses.

In 2012, ODOT met with the Yamhill County Parkway Committee to seek input on the overall aesthetics of the bypass bridge structures. This guidance has led to a regional “corridor theme” that will be applied, as possible, along the Phase 1 section and the future full bypass. Project designers will use this theme to help them make decisions on geometry and materials that will maintain a consistent “look” and “feel.”

Overall aesthetic recommendations

Overall, the Parkway Committee recommended that bypass bridge structures be complementary to the landscape and to blend into the natural surroundings in color, shape and materials. Specifically, they recommended:

- a consistent, well-integrated feel
- open space under the structures
- soft, flowing features
- slender elements when possible
- smooth transitions with the natural environment
- an appreciation of place.

LOCAL FOCUS

Where the structure will become part of the community, the Committee’s preference was to seek additional local input on aesthetic options. This will be the case by the south Newberg neighborhood and at OR 99W intersection near Dundee.

INPUT ON BRIDGE FORMS

The Committee supported a consistent bridge form across all locations, as possible, realizing that location characteristics may require a different yet complementary structure. The recommended structure form is open, allows views for drivers under the structure and provides opportunities for smooth transitions into the surroundings.
Feedback on railing and protective screening

The Committee supported using a complementary application of metal or concrete rails to best serve the users and function of each structure.

Maximizing views in country areas
In areas where the bypass bridges creeks, wetlands or other geologic features, but is not near an urban area or place where protective screening is required, the Committee preferred “three-tube metal rail” to provide travelers with views of the landscape.

Rolling hills and meandering river:
A corridor theme
A concrete rail will be used for bridges where the bypass goes over or under local roadways. Screening is required for some structures, such as those where the bypass goes under local roads or where there is bicycle or pedestrian access over the bridge. The concrete rail offers visual security to local traffic above the bypass, while the protective screening provides required security to the bypass traffic below. Screening is also required where the bypass goes over a railroad.

With input from the Committee, the project team has selected a decorative corridor theme that includes a “meandering river” concrete relief on the concrete railing and an ornamental “rolling hills” design for screening, where required. Initial concepts are shown to the right. These will continue to be refined as the project moves forward.

LOCAL FOCUS
The bridge over the railroad and OR 99W south of Dundee and the bridge structure over River/College/railroad in south Newberg will require unique features and transitions that may use a combination of railing, screening, and visual wall components. ODOT will work with community members to get feedback on aesthetics and to refine visual elements of these structures.

For more information
Stay up to date as we further refine design details and begin construction on Phase 1. Visit the project website for the latest news and to sign up for the mailing list.
www.NewbergDundee.org

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