



Reconnecting the missing, historic Willamette River link of the Portland area with the Willamette Valley

# **Key Attributes of the Proposed French Prairie Bridge at Wilsonville:**

- Historic route reestablished at Boones Ferry crossing, linking the French Prairie region of the north Willamette Valley to the greater Portland metro area.
- Safe bicycle and pedestrian access across the Willamette River without the hazards of using I-5.
- **Improved connectivity** between the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway and new Portland area Tonquin Trail.
- Emergency access to highway accidents for police, fire and safety vehicles responding to incidents occurring on I-5, allowing faster reopening of freeway.
- Tourism development opportunities featuring French Prairie, the Willamette River Greenway, Champoeg State Heritage Park and "Oregon Wine Country."
- Practical, cost-effective transportation solution with multiple public benefits.

For info: City of Wilsonville, Public Affairs Section, 503-570-1505



# French Prairie Bike-Ped-Emergency Bridge

SOUTH PORTLAND / NORTH WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON

## Critical Historical Transportation Link Restoration

The French Prairie Bridge will provide the missing link to restore a seamless, non-highway connection between Portland and Eugene. The bridge will link the metro regional Tonquin Trail with the Champoeg Trail, and to the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway. Building the French Prairie Bridge will connect the Portland metropolitan area to the entire regional trail system of the Willamette Valley.

#### Regional Trail Connections



The proposed location of the French Prairie Bridge is at the site of Boones Ferry, which operated from 1847 to 1954. Founded by the grandson of famous explorer Daniel Boone, the ferry and Boones Ferry Road were key components of a major land-based thoroughfare in pioneer times that linked fledging Portland with the pre-territorial government at Champoeg, and later the state capital of Salem.

# Safe, Multi-Modal Connectivity

In addition to providing seamless connectivity between multi-use trail systems, the French Prairie Bridge will also provide connections to the Westside Express Service (WES) at the Wilsonville Commuter Rail Station, which began service in 2009. The bridge also facilitates access to and from the Willamette River Water Trail, which stretches from Eugene to Portland.



The bridge will permit safe passage across the Willamette River for both bicyclists and pedestrians, who otherwise risk personal safety if they try to cross over the heavily trafficked I-5 Boone Bridge. The French Prairie Bridge will be the only safe bike-ped bridge over the Willamette River located within a 28-mile (45 km) stretch between Newberg and Oregon City.

## Interstate Freeway Emergency Utility

Currently, when traffic incidents occur near Boone Bridge in Wilsonville, I-5 and the entire surrounding freeway system can shut-down for hours. With an average daily traffic volume of 120,000 vehicles, this crucial West Coast interstate corridor—also a predominant truck route—can become a regional



bottleneck, impacting traffic throughout the Portland metro and North Willamette Valley regions.

The French Prairie Bridge would serve as a rapid-incident, emergency response system, allowing authorized vehicles access to an incident on the freeway. The bridge will give ODOT and other responsible authorities the ability to clean-up faster; and police, fire, and other emergency vehicles will have better access to incidents. At \$21 million, the cost-effective French Prairie Bridge will always be available for this purpose and will be fully commandeerable by emergency services personnel.

### Contextually and Environmentally Sensitive

The French Prairie Bridge is designed to preserve the surrounding riparian area and to complement the design of nearby highway and train bridges. The foundations of the bridge will be at higher elevations, and the bridge will touch down gently in a non-sensitive portion of the river channel. With graceful horizontal and vertical curves, the design of the bridge suggests the movement of skipping stones across the river.