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## Willamette Falls Drive Bicycle Lanes, Sidewalks, and Streetlighting



Imagine a project that connects the oldest downtown in Oregon, to the historic Willamette district that is booming with architecturally sensitive redevelopment, and the West Linn High School, Bolton commercial district that happens to include the West Linn Library. Imagine this project would provide bike and pedestrian facilities that make multi-modal transportation a reality, and connecting to nearby West Linn Tri-Met line and the Oregon City Transit Station. Imagine traveling this route with vistas of the beautiful Willamette River scenery and the Willamette Falls. This wonderful vision can become a reality. (The photos on the cover of this application are taken from actual locations along the proposed sidewalk/bicycle project.)

## **The Willamette Falls Drive Sidewalk, Bike Lane and Streetlight Improvements Project**

### **Project Description**

Bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and accompanying streetlights will be added to Willamette Falls Drive between Willamette Drive (Highway 43) and 10<sup>th</sup> Street. This project has a length of approximately 2.06 miles. The project extends the existing bicycle system (there are bicycle lanes on Highway 43, connects three town centers, provides for a seamless multi-modal bike/pedestrian route, and is estimated at \$7,800,000. These three important town centers are comprised of established neighborhoods, schools, and commercial centers consisting of a diverse mix of retail, business, and restaurants. The project termini connect to existing bike and pedestrian facilities and add an elevated bike lane, sidewalk, and streetlights to narrow two-lane scenic stretch of Willamette Falls Drive. Much of West Linn is located on a hill rising 600 feet above sea level and street topography between 8 – 15+% making direct bike travel across it extends extremely physically challenging. This project provides a safe and basically level route around town and to the recently revitalized Oregon City Old Town.

Willamette Falls Drive, a two-lane roadway with narrow gravel shoulders, is categorized as a regional minor arterial, as indicated on the Oregon Transportation Map. The two-mile stretch of road is the most direct east/west connection between the east and west portions of the city and the Old Oregon City/West Linn bridge. Yet the hardy bicyclists who ride there now must share the road with 10,000 (daily) cars traveling between 35 and 45 mph, depending on the location along the road. Willamette Falls Drive also serves as an alternate route for I-205 when the freeway system is backed up. This increase in traffic volume further exacerbates the need for bike lane, sidewalk, and streetlight improvements along Willamette Falls Drive to improve safety through this corridor. The project will provide a safe and comfortable travel space for cyclists and pedestrians. The addition of bicycle lanes and sidewalks will allow more residents to safely commute this short distance between town centers, schools, and to the nearby state and local parks. Funding of this project will provide great benefit to the cities of West Linn, Oregon City, and the region at large by making this multi-modal link and improving safety on this important regional facility.

The project plans to employ the European concept of vertically separated modal facilities. This concept provides for additional safety of bicyclists and pedestrians by providing both horizontal and vertical separation from the motor vehicle travel lanes.

The project includes collection and treatment of runoff from new impervious surfaces. Catchbasins will be located in the roadway to minimize hazards to bicyclists. The project also includes decorative, high-efficiency streetlighting that is also dark sky compliant. The

streetlighting will greatly enhance safety of travel of all modes of travel at night and during inclement weather.

This project is included in the West Linn adopted Transportation System Master Plan (TSP) and the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan's Financially Constrained List.

**Project Benefits**

- Seamless multi-modal transportation connections
- Links two cities' town centers
- Attractive and enjoyable travel along significant naturescape with beautiful vistas
- Direct and accessible to traveling public
- Safe, comfortable, and separated from vehicle travel lanes
- Illumination during periods of darkness
- Reduce automobile emissions by alternate mode transportation

**Project Estimate**

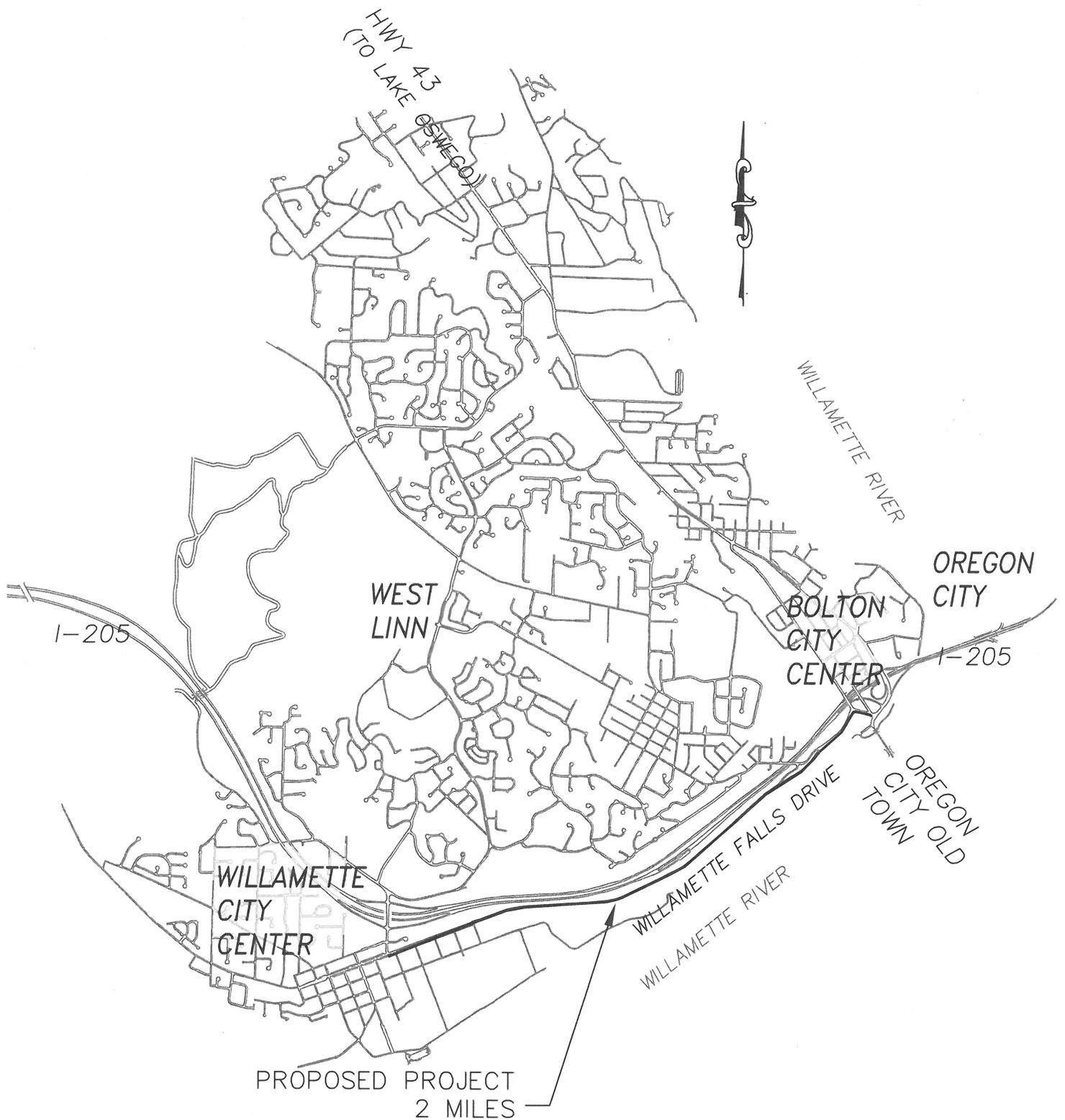
Elevated Bike Lane	\$310,000
Sidewalk	\$410,000
Streetlights	\$170,000
Utility Pole Relocation	\$120,000
Stormwater (catchment, treatment, and piping)	\$1,750,000
Traffic Control	\$110,000
Rock Excavation and Retaining Walls	\$2,160,000
Pavement Improvement	\$310,000
Miscellaneous Construction	\$150,000
Engineering, Surveying, Admin, Inspection	\$1,340,000
Mobilization	\$430,000
Construction Contingency	<u>\$540,000</u>
Total	\$7,800,000

**Project Schedule**

- 6 Months - Engineering and Surveying
- 2 Months - Advertise and Award
- 1 Month - Construction Staking
- 5 Months - Construction

**Project Partnership**

The project is jointly sponsored by West Linn, Oregon City, and Clackamas County. Lead agency is West Linn and lead contact is Dennis Wright, West Linn City Engineer (503) 722-5514 ([dwright@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:dwright@westlinnoregon.gov)).



BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, WILLAMETTE TO BOLTON CITY OF WEST LINN  
 VICINITY/SITE MAP