

# **Willamette Greenway: Columbia Boulevard Bridge Community Outreach Report**

**January 2020**

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), in partnership with Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) as well as many community partners, is working to create a safe path for bicycles and pedestrians to cross Columbia Boulevard at Chimney Park. The proposed bridge would link users from the Pier Park Bridge to St. Johns Prairie, while maintaining the flow of traffic on Columbia Boulevard. This project helps complete a major gap on the Willamette Greenway and 40 Mile Loop, as identified in several regional plans include the North Portland Greenway Trail Alignment Plan (2013).

While this project has been in the work for decades, the design and engineering process started in 2019. The project team is working with stakeholders to understand community priorities and considerations that may inform the design process. Because this project has complicated design considerations, stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on their priorities and possible uses rather than on different design concepts.

The project team interviewed over a dozen community members who represent organizations with interests in this project. These organizations included: North Portland Greenway, 40-mile Loop Land Trust, Columbia Corridor Association, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee, Portland Harbor Community Coalition, Center for Opportunities, and Friends of Pier Park.

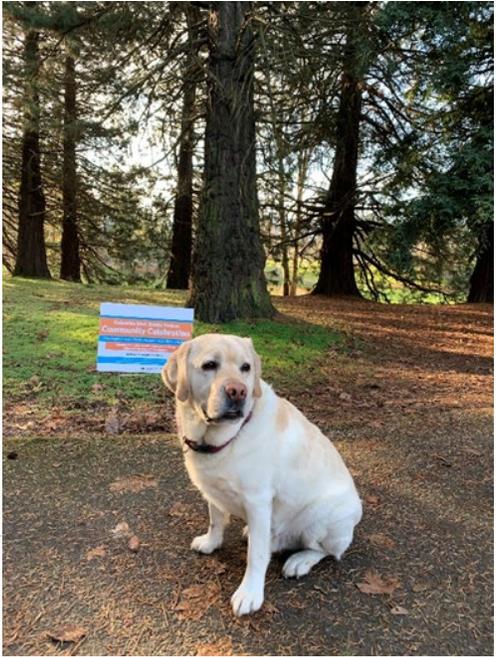
These stakeholder interviews helped the project team gather information about the assumptions and expectations from each of the groups represented while also gathering information on their preferences and thoughts on the potential impacts to the park. These interviews also provided community groups an opportunity to ask questions about the project, hear more about its history and anticipated benefits, and speak to open-ended questions such as: What else do we need to know? What questions are we not asking? Who else should we talk to?

In addition to these in-depth interviews, the multi-agency project team hosted a community open house at Chimney Park on December 14, 2019. This event brought community members to the project site for a walking tour, informational stations staffed by project engineers and managers, and a gumdrop bridge building activity to provide a hands-on illustration of some of the bridge design concepts used in this project.

Utilizing Spanish translators, the engineer and project team staff presented a 20-minute walking tour to interested community members. This tour highlighted project impacts and provided a complete overview of the project history, timeline, and proposed design elements. Outreach staff spoke with community members utilizing Chimney Park to understand possible project uses and impacts to park users.

The event included several stations inside the PP&R facility at Chimney Park. These stations helped inform interested community members about the project scope, anticipated benefits, and design considerations. Families also participated in a gum drop bridge building activity. Utilizing a “plan sheet”, they constructed bridges out of toothpicks, gum drops, and crackers. This fun activity was informed by bridge design ideas from the project’s engineering team.

To inform community members about the event, project team members distributed over 300 fliers in English and Spanish to residences and business within a half mile of the project site. Fliers were also distributed to important community sites such as the St. Johns Library, St. Johns Community Center, and Sitton and James John Elementary Schools. Project staff sent out an email invitation and posted 40 lawn signs in English and Spanish throughout Chimney Park, Pier Park, and in downtown St. Johns.

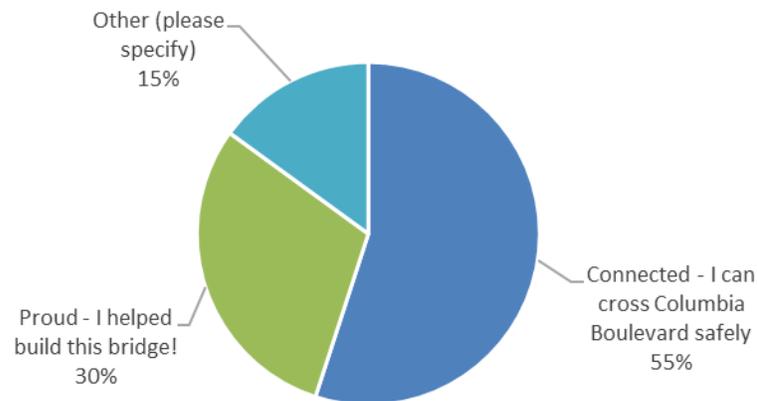


## Community Celebration Comment Form Results

### How will you use this bridge?

- To safely and more efficiently reach my home in North Portland and all points further into North Portland. by bike and on foot. I don't use motor vehicles, not even buses, so although I have lived in North Portland since early 2013, I have never visited Sauvies Island due to unsafe access. I would very much love to go U-picking there!
- Bike
- Bike rides with my kiddos
- Connection trail
- On recreational bike rides or runs
- For access to St Johns Prairie, and eventually to jobs in Rivergate as well as Kelley Point Park. This bridge project is a key link in the regional vision of a continuous Trail from the Confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers to Willamette Falls.
- To get to the prairie
- For walks and biking, as an access to natural areas
- Probably won't
- Running
- Hike with kids.
- I would ride my bicycle or walk my dog across it.
- Walking field trips!
- On foot and on bike
- Not sure since the map and graphic are completely unclear!
- Biking walking skating

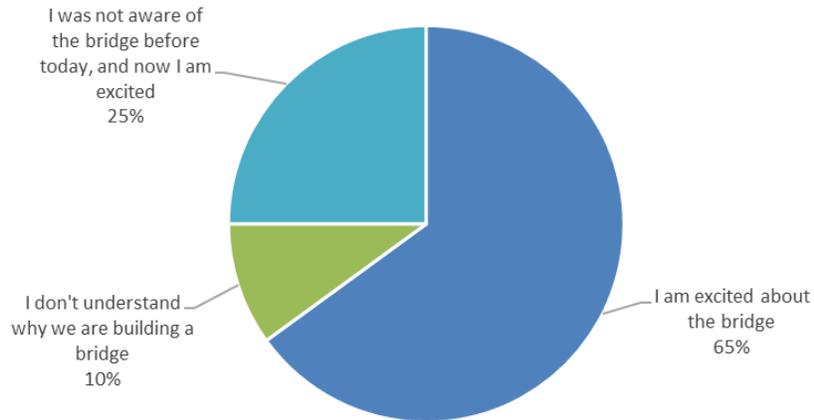
### After the bridge is built (2-3 years), how do you want to feel about it?



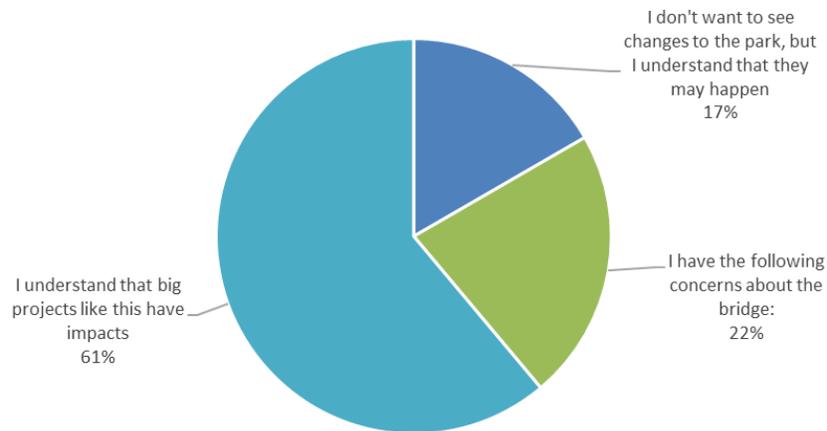
#### Responses to "other":

- *I am concerned about environmental impact of humans and dogs especially*
- *Unfortunately, I live on the north side of Columbia Blvd, no connecting sidewalk from Macrum Blvd to St Johns Prairie and cycle track on Burgard ends at Columbia Blvd. No connecting trail*
- *that the money was spent wisely and the bridge is actually cost effective*

**Which of the following is most true? (pick one)**



**Building a bridge over Columbia Blvd will impact Chimney Park. Some of these impacts could include changes to park access, changes to the dog off-leash area, tree removal, etc. Which statement is most true for you?**



**Responses to "I have the following concerns about the bridge":**

- *If trees are removed, please replace them. Bushes, too.*
- *I don't want dogs to lose any space from the off-leash area, but if it can be shifted/reallocated that's ok*
- *I would like to know more about effects to the dog park and tree removal. This park is highly used.*
- *It is pointless and if they have to remove trees, they better replant trees.*

**What else would you like us to know?**

- It was not clear whether I was answering these questions as I want them to be, or answering them as they already are. So I answered them as I wanted them to be, not as I know them to be.
- I am very concerned about the impact of dogs on wildlife. You can require leashes but folks don't pay attention to leash laws. Please keep this in mind
- That we need a connecting sidewalk from Macrum to St. Johns Prairie. My neighborhood - densely populated is isolated from access to peninsula crossing trail, Columbia slough trail due to incomplete sidewalks on the north side of Columbia Blvd.
- Metro's no dog policy for natural areas is critical for wildlife, either dogs or meadow larkes - I prefer the later.
- I wish tax dollars were actually spent on the things they are supposed to be, and taxpayers aren't punished by increase of taxes without increase of COL wage to help accommodate.
- I am very eager for the bridge to happen and for the Greenway to continue, to connect St Johns to the Prairie, etc.

**I am age (pick one)**

Answer Choice	% of responses
<b>16-24</b>	6%
<b>25-34</b>	11%
<b>35-44</b>	50%
<b>45-59</b>	11%
<b>60-79</b>	22%

**I identify as:**

Answer Choice	% of responses
<b>Female</b>	61%
<b>Male</b>	29%

**I identify as: (check all that apply)**

Answer Choice	% of responses
<b>American Indian or Alaskan Native</b>	6%
<b>Asian</b>	0%
<b>Black or African American</b>	0%
<b>Hispanic</b>	0%
<b>Middle Eastern/North Africa</b>	0%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	0%
<b>Slavic/Eastern European</b>	6%
<b>White</b>	94%
<b>Unknown/don't know</b>	0%

**Do you or a family member live with a disability or identify as a disabled person?**

Answer Choice	% of responses
Yes	38%
No	62%

**If yes, please describe the nature of you and/or your family member’s disability. Please check all that apply.**

Answer Choice	% of responses
Mobility (e.g., walking, climbing stairs)	33%
Visual (e.g., blind, low vision)	0%
Deaf or hard-of-hearing	0%
Cognitive (e.g., traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities)	17%
Mental health (e.g., anxiety, PTSD)	0%
Intellectual or developmental (e.g., Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome)	0%
Invisible (e.g., diabetes, HIV, cancer)	0%
Prefer not to disclose	33%
Prefer to describe:	17%

Responses to “prefer to describe”:

- My wife has rheumatoid arthritis which affects her ability to walk for more than 30-40 minutes.

**Regarding residence, I:**

Answer Choice	% of responses
Own	88%
Rent	12%

**How far do you live from Chimney Park?**

Answer Choice	% of responses
Five blocks or less	6%
Less than one mile	12%
More than one mile	82%

**How often do you currently visit Pier or Chimney Park? (pick one)**

Answer Choice	% of responses
Every day or every other day	5%
Once or twice a week	16%
Once or twice a month	11%
A few times a year	53%
Never	16%

**How many children under age 18 live with you?**

<b>Answer Choice</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
<b>No children</b>	79%
<b>One to two children</b>	21%
<b>More than two children</b>	0%

**How did you hear about this? (check all that apply)**

<b>Answer Choice</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
<b>Email</b>	50%
<b>Facebook event page</b>	25%
<b>Yard Sign</b>	10%
<b>Other</b>	15%