



Josh Thomas, Citizen Information Coordinator, 503-635-0257

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Contact: Josh Thomas
503-635-0257

NEW OSWEGO CANAL BRIDGE OPENING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

LAKE OSWEGO – This holiday season, one special gift is coming early for residents and motorists in Lake Oswego—a brand new bridge. The new Oswego Canal Bridge on South Shore Boulevard will open to traffic on Friday at 5 p.m., ending neighborhood detours and restoring a vital transportation link on the south side of Oswego Lake. Construction and utility crews are expected to complete their work just before the event in the late afternoon.

The old bridge was closed in September for demolition and reconstruction. Early estimates projected that the new bridge would open to traffic by the end of the year. Despite some obstacles and impediments along the way, including a giant old growth tree stump that had to be excavated from the canal, the contractor is completing the project ahead of schedule.

“The Natt McDougall Company and their team of employees and subcontractors worked six days a week since September to bring this project in ahead of schedule,” said City Engineer Joel Komarek. “They were at all times professional and courteous and did whatever it took to be a good neighbor throughout this project.”

During construction, normal traffic routes, boat access, and nearby neighborhoods were impacted. “We are extremely grateful for the patience and understanding of nearby residents and those who have been inconvenienced,” said Komarek. “This was a challenging project under a tight timeframe and the cooperation and understanding of surrounding neighborhoods helped make this project a success from start to finish.”

City officials say it was high time to replace the ailing, 71-year old bridge. It had partially collapsed in December 2002, prompting closure to all traffic until a temporary system of supports could be put in place. State transportation funds were allocated to fund the replacement in late 2003. The new structure is now substantially complete, with only design elements and finishing touches remaining.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the bridge at 4:30 p.m. on Friday before it opens to traffic. Mayor Judie Hammerstad will be on hand to address the crowd and cut the ribbon. The event is free and open to the public.