



# HEALDSBURG AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT

## An Investment In Public Safety

The 89-year-old Healdsburg Avenue Bridge across the Russian River was completed in December 1921. The bridge provided a vital link for commerce and trade between northern California and the San Francisco Bay area. Since the construction of U.S. 101, the bridge now serves as an alternative route for local traffic and as an entry way into Healdsburg.

Several previous studies have indicated that the bridge is in need of attention and improvements. In early March 2010 the Healdsburg City Council initiated engineering and environmental studies to evaluate rehabilitation or replacement of the aging structure. Long-standing concerns about the bridge's seismic stability, ability to handle growing traffic flow, and ability to withstand flood waters have prompted City officials to research improving, replacing or relocating the steel truss structure.

Based on public input, a handful of preliminary alternatives will be developed and evaluated for engineering, environmental, traffic operations, and funding constraints. This comparative evaluation will be presented to the public and the City Council for review. Based on this evaluation and public input, the City Council will identify one locally preferred alternative that will be carried forward to be evaluated as a part of the federal and state environmental processes. Similarly, several other alternatives will also be evaluated per state and federal environmental regulations.

### Attend the Public Meeting and Be Heard!

A public meeting will be held to inform the public about this proposed project and to get public input. City staff and consultants will be available to address questions on the engineering and environmental studies that are just now getting underway.

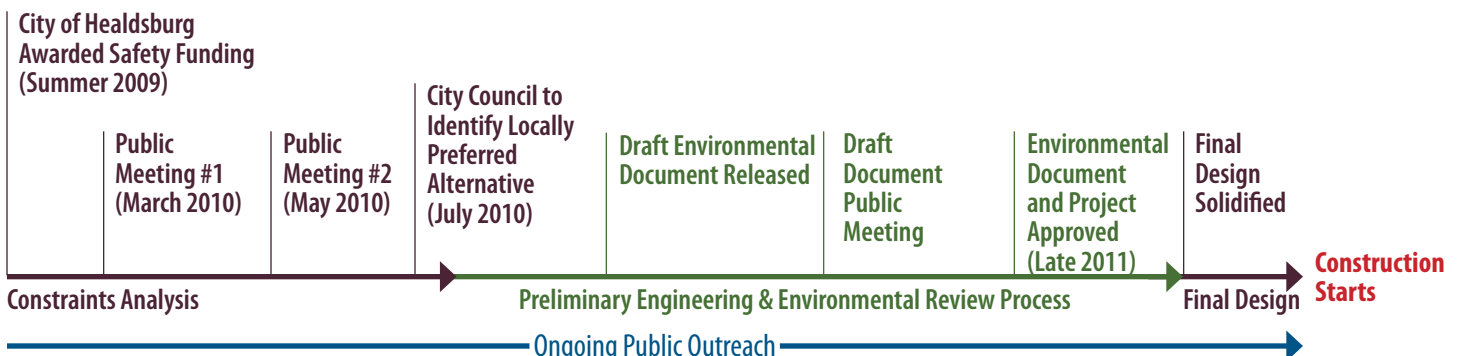
**When:** Wednesday, March 31, 2010

**Where:** Healdsburg Senior Center  
133 Matheson Street, Healdsburg

**Time:** 5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

If you have questions about the meeting please contact Doug Ries, Project Manager, at Omni-Means at (707) 483-2572. The City of Healdsburg will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs related to disabilities or who need translation services. Please contact Maria Curiel, City Clerk, at Healdsburg City Hall, 401 Grove Street, Healdsburg, California, (707) 431-3317, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure the necessary accommodations are made.

## Project Process



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why do we need this project?

This project is necessary to enhance public safety. The bridge is almost 90 years old and is in need of attention. It is currently not wide enough to handle some forms of public transportation or to facilitate high volumes of vehicular traffic. There are also long-standing concerns about the bridge's ability to withstand flood waters and seismic waves (earthquakes). It's the City's goal to accommodate all modes of transportation over the river in order to best serve the community's needs.

### How are these engineering and environmental studies being funded?

In the summer of 2009, Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration gave the City of Healdsburg nearly \$1 million to conduct engineering and environmental studies to determine how best to address issues surrounding the bridge. When the City Council ultimately adopts a project for construction, the City will likely pay less than 20 percent of the full project cost.

### What steps is the City taking to address issues currently facing the bridge?

Based on input received from the public at the March and May 2010 public meetings, the City's engineering consultant, Omni-Means, will develop several preliminary alternatives over the course of the next few months. These alternatives will be designed to reflect different ways that concerns about the bridge could be addressed. The City's environmental consultant, ICF International, will conduct preliminary evaluations of environmental constraints associated with each preliminary alternative.

Factors related to safety; pedestrian and bicycle access; traffic flow; public transportation; right-of-way needs; and impacts on the historic significance of the bridge, biological resources, and Veterans Memorial Park will be evaluated. The pros and cons of each preliminary alternative will be summarized in a report and presented to the City Council.

### What is the timeline in which these studies will be carried out and a decision about the future of the bridge will be made?

Preliminary alternatives are expected to be presented to the public and the City Council for review in spring/early summer of 2010. Two public meetings will be held during this period to provide the public with the opportunity to share their ideas about the future of the bridge with the project team. City Council is expected to identify a locally preferred alternative in July 2010. This alternative, along with the other preliminary alternatives, will be evaluated under state and federal environmental regulations. Approval of the environmental document and the project is expected in late 2011.

### How can I get involved?

The City of Healdsburg wants to keep the public informed while these studies are being conducted and through the construction phase. To learn more about the project, plan to attend the City's open house meeting scheduled for March 31 at the Healdsburg Senior Center from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. A second meeting is anticipated to be held in May 2010.

You can contact Doug Ries, Project Manager at Omni-Means, at (707) 483-2572 to voice your comments about the fate of the bridge. The City also plans to meet with several stakeholder groups one-on-one to educate and get feedback about bridge alternatives. The City looks forward to your involvement.

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