



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. Concerns have been noted about the bridge's seismic stability, ability to handle growing traffic flow, and ability to withstand flood waters.

In early March 2010, the Healdsburg City Council hired a consultant to initiate engineering and environmental studies to evaluate rehabilitation, relocation, or replacement of the structure.

The City's engineering consultant, Omni-Means, has developed preliminary project concepts based upon feedback garnered at the March 31, 2010 open house meeting. These preliminary concepts will be shared with the public at an open house meeting on Thursday, April 29, 2010 and a public meeting on May 11, 2010.

The City is expected to select a locally preferred concept (the City's favored bridge concept) by mid-August 2010. This concept, along with other preliminary concepts, will be evaluated under state and federal (CEQA/NEPA) environmental regulations. Environmental approval of the project is expected in late 2011.

Attend the Public Open House-Style Meeting and Be Heard!

An open house will be held to present to the public preliminary project concepts and to obtain public feedback.

Staff from the City and the Omni-Means team will be on hand to answer questions about the concepts, how they were developed, and what the next steps are in the Healdsburg Avenue Bridge project.

When: Thursday, April 29, 2010

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

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

If you have questions about the meeting please contact Mike Kirn, Public Works Department, City of Healdsburg at (707) 431-3346. 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



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 does not meet current width or height requirements. In the past, concerns have been raised about the bridge's ability to withstand flood waters and seismic waves (earthquakes). It's the City's goal to consider all modes of transportation (vehicular, pedestrian and bicycles) over the river in order to determine the best way to 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. The potential to fund the construction of this project through various funding sources will be investigated by the project team. Some of these funding sources may pay up to 88 percent of the full project cost.

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

Since the last open house on March 31, 2010, Omni-Means has been developing concepts for the bridge project. Public feedback from the March open house helped shape the preliminary concepts, which will be presented at an open house to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at the Senior Center. Then on May 11, 2010, a public meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall to receive additional public comments on the concepts presented at the April 29, 2010 Open House.

Following the May 11, 2010 public meeting at City Hall, an engineering analysis of preliminary concepts will be performed. 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.

By mid-July, the preliminary concepts analysis report is expected to be released on the project website (www.healdsburgbridge.com). Notification that the preliminary findings have been posted to the project website will be distributed by e-mail. If you would like to receive this and other project related notifications, please provide us with your e-mail address by filling out the form on the Contact Us page at www.healdsburgbridge.com.

In late July, approximately a week after the preliminary findings have been posted to the project website, a public meeting will be held to solicit public comment about the findings. Following this second public meeting, the City is expected to select a locally preferred concept (the City's favored concept) by mid-August 2010. This concept, along with other preliminary concepts, will then be evaluated under state and federal environmental regulations. Approval of the environmental document 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 and preliminary concepts, visit the project website at www.healdsburgbridge.com.

If you have comments or questions about this project, the City wants to hear from you; please contact Mike Kirn, Public Works Department, City of Healdsburg at (707) 431-3346.
