



# 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 retained a consultant to initiate engineering and environmental studies to evaluate rehabilitation, relocation, or replacement of the structure.

On August 26, City officials will hold a public meeting to present the findings of the concept analysis for the Healdsburg Avenue Bridge Project to the public. These findings will be the basis for a recommendation to the City Council in September for selection of a preferred bridge alternative. For more information on the concept analysis process, visit the project Web site at [www.healdsburgbridge.com/process-concepts](http://www.healdsburgbridge.com/process-concepts).

On September 7, 2010 the City Council is scheduled to receive a recommendation from staff and the consulting team of a preferred alternative based upon the concept studies and public input to-date. Once the Council selects the preferred alternative, it and a few select other alternatives under consideration will be further evaluated under state and federal environmental regulations for a construction project. Environmental approval of the project is expected in late 2011.

### Project Process



### Attend the Public Meeting and Be Heard!

The August 26 public meeting will be held to present the findings of the concept analysis study related to the Healdsburg Avenue Bridge Project. 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, August 26, 2010**

**Where: City Hall  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA**

**Time: 6:00 P.M.**

If you have questions about the meeting please contact Mike Kim, 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.

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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 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 March 2010 Omni-Means has been developing concepts for the bridge project. Public feedback from the March and April open houses and the May public meeting were considered as Omni-Means developed and refined the bridge concepts that will be presented at the August 26 public meeting.

As Omni-Means developed and refined the concepts, 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 were evaluated, and public feedback received was considered.

The finding of the concept analysis study presented to the public at the August 26, 2010 public meeting will be the basis for a recommendation of a preferred bridge alternative to the City Council at the September 7 Council meeting.

The preferred alternative, along with a small handful of other viable alternatives, will then undergo environmental analysis in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This will result in an environmental impact report (EIR) under CEQA and an environmental assessment (EA) under NEPA that will outline the potential environmental effects of all of the final alternatives considered. After the EIR and EA are completed, the City Council will consider all of the factors and make a final decision as to which alternative will be implemented.

### 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 Web site at [www.healdsburgbridge.com](http://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.

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