

NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Department of Transportation
Region 2 Public Affairs

September 15, 2005
09-246-R2

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ODOT Bridge Crews Build Bridge Abutments for Fort to Sea Trail

ASTORIA – The Seaside Bridge crew and Astoria Drawbridge crew constructed abutments for pedestrian bridges over the Neacoxie Lake and Sunset Lake. These bridges along with a bridge over the Skipannon River, are part of the six mile Fort to Sea trail that starts at Fort Clatsop and ends at the Pacific Ocean.

Bridge crewmembers Dan McFadden, Reed Mortenson, John Gamwell, Steve Harris, Josh Ransom, John Discasey, Chuck Mustard, Tom Mulvey, Darin Weaver and Troy Palmrose, built the forms for the abutments and transported them to the site. Because of the terrain and steep slopes the bridge crews had to be innovative when installing the footings, rebar mats and abutment forms.

The dimensions for the plywood forms at Neacoxie River were 6 feet wide, 7 feet 3 inches long and 3 and 5 feet tall, so the crew assembled them in the shop and used the boom truck to install one and strung a cable from the boom truck to a tree across the lake to “high line” the other form into place. At Sunset Lake the footings are 14 feet long, 7 feet 6 inches wide and 18 inches deep. The abutments and wing walls are 11 and 10 feet high. The crew used a boat to move the abutments down the waterway and into location and then finished assembling them on site.

Due to the hilly terrain on the west side of Sunset Lake, the bridge crews used several Bobcats to transport concrete for the abutments. The bridge over Sunset Lake will be a 130 foot pre-fabricated timber trestle and a 132 foot bridge will span the Neacoxie Lake.

There is a sense of pride,” said Bridge Maintenance Supervisor Darin Weaver. “The Lewis and Clark celebration is of national significance and it’s not very often you get to work behind the scenes on a project of this magnitude. It is going to leave a footprint for a long time.”

In addition to constructing the bridge abutments, ODOT maintenance crews from Astoria and Seaside installed five new Lewis and Clark informational signs in the area. The signs display Lewis and Clark National Park on top and list the distance to specific units underneath. The new signs are located Highway 30 prior to entering Astoria, on Highway 26 just before the junction with Highway 101, on northbound Highway 101

south of Cannon Beach, near the district office when traveling south from the Astoria Megler Bridge and just before you reach the bridge to provide highlights for Washington's points of interest. There are now over 30 signs that provide tourists and travelers with directions and information about the Lewis and Clark National Park.

"We want Fort Clatsop to be the first stop and the main visitor center for all the units that include Ecola State Park, Fort Stevens State Park, Cape Disappointment, Fort Columbia and a couple of other sites," said Spaeth.

The state of Washington will have their Lewis and Clark National Park signs installed by the end of November 2005.

##ODOT##