

Newport Avenue Bridge Receives New Beams

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Beams were set on the Newport Avenue Bridge on Friday, August 4th, and Monday, August 7th. The beams arrived at the work site one at a time and were lifted off the transport trucks and set in place by a crane. Holm II, the City's contractor used a crane capable of lifting 250 tons. The pre-stressed arched concrete girder beams were manufactured at the Morse Bros. construction site in Harrisburg, Oregon. Morse Bros. loaded the beams on transport trucks and shipped them to Bend in the order they were installed. Trucks moved in and out of the installation area throughout the two days. Beams were set on the east side of the Deschutes River on Friday, and the west side of the river on Monday. Each of the ten concrete beams weighs approximately 50 tons. The arched beams are 110 feet long and approximately four feet tall on the beam ends. Transport trucks were staged along Highway 20 north of Bend. Pilot cars, flaggers and other traffic control accompanied the transport trucks as each beam was delivered from the staging area to the work site. Replacement of the Newport Avenue Bridge is a project funded by the City and the State of Oregon. The Oregon Transportation Commission provided a grant through the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA 3) of \$4.75 million dollars for bridge replacement. The importance of Newport Avenue as a local freight route and emergency response corridor were significant factors in the state's funding decision. The complete bridge replacement project will include street improvements from Awbrey Road to Bond Street, new traffic signals at Wall/Greenwood and Bond/Greenwood, and pedestrian overlooks on the bridge. The bridge design will be art-deco style with a basalt fieldstone design on the bridge abutments. The design was identified through an extensive public involvement process and is consistent with the historic materials and design elements of early Bend.

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