

# Van Buren Bridge Mitigation Update

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July 2025

# Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

- Result of Section 106 consultation for the removal of the Van Buren Bridge
- Mitigation items for the community

FHWA/SHPO/ODOT  
Agreement No. 73000-00013099  
A164-G081920

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,  
OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE,  
AND OREGON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION,  
REGARDING THE OR34: VAN BUREN BRIDGE (CORVALLIS) PROJECT,  
CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON, ODOT KEY NO. 20688,  
FEDERAL AID NO. S210(022)PE, SHPO Case No 19-0502**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** is made and entered into by and between the STATE OF OREGON, acting by and through its Department of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as "ODOT;" the STATE OF OREGON, acting by and through its State Historic Preservation Office, hereinafter referred to as "SHPO;" the UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, acting by and through the Federal Highway Administration, hereinafter referred to as "FHWA;" and all collectively referred to as "Parties" or "Signatories."

**RECITALS:**

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to document the Parties' plans and obligations regarding the mitigation strategy for the OR34: Van Buren Bridge (Corvallis) Project. The Parties intend that the mitigation strategy will meet the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 United States Code ("USC") § 470f; and

# Items from the MOA

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- Walking Tour Enhancements
- Multiple Property Documentation (MPD)
- Interpretive Stations:
  - Turning Mechanism
  - Pony Truss
- Bridge Key
- Educational Video Series
- Archaeological Data Recovery
- HAER (Historic American Engineering Record) Documentation

# Complete Efforts

- HAER
- Video Series
- Bridge Key (Complete)
- Archeological Recovery
  - Report expected 2025

HAER recordation of the Van Buren Bridge (Straus, 2023)





# In Process

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- Interpretive Stations:
  - Turning Mechanism
  - Pony Truss



# Coming Up Next

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- Walking Tour Enhancements
- Multiple Property Documentation





# Interpretive Stations







## What's included?

- Turning mechanism
- Pony truss
- Interpretive panels
  - Language from the MOA:
    - Accessible.
    - Easy to maintain.
    - History of Corvallis, the Willamette River, historic river crossings, archaeological site, and the Van Buren Bridge
    - Parts of the mechanism, bridge engineering, the unique design of this bridge, and how the swing span operated



















# Turning Mechanism







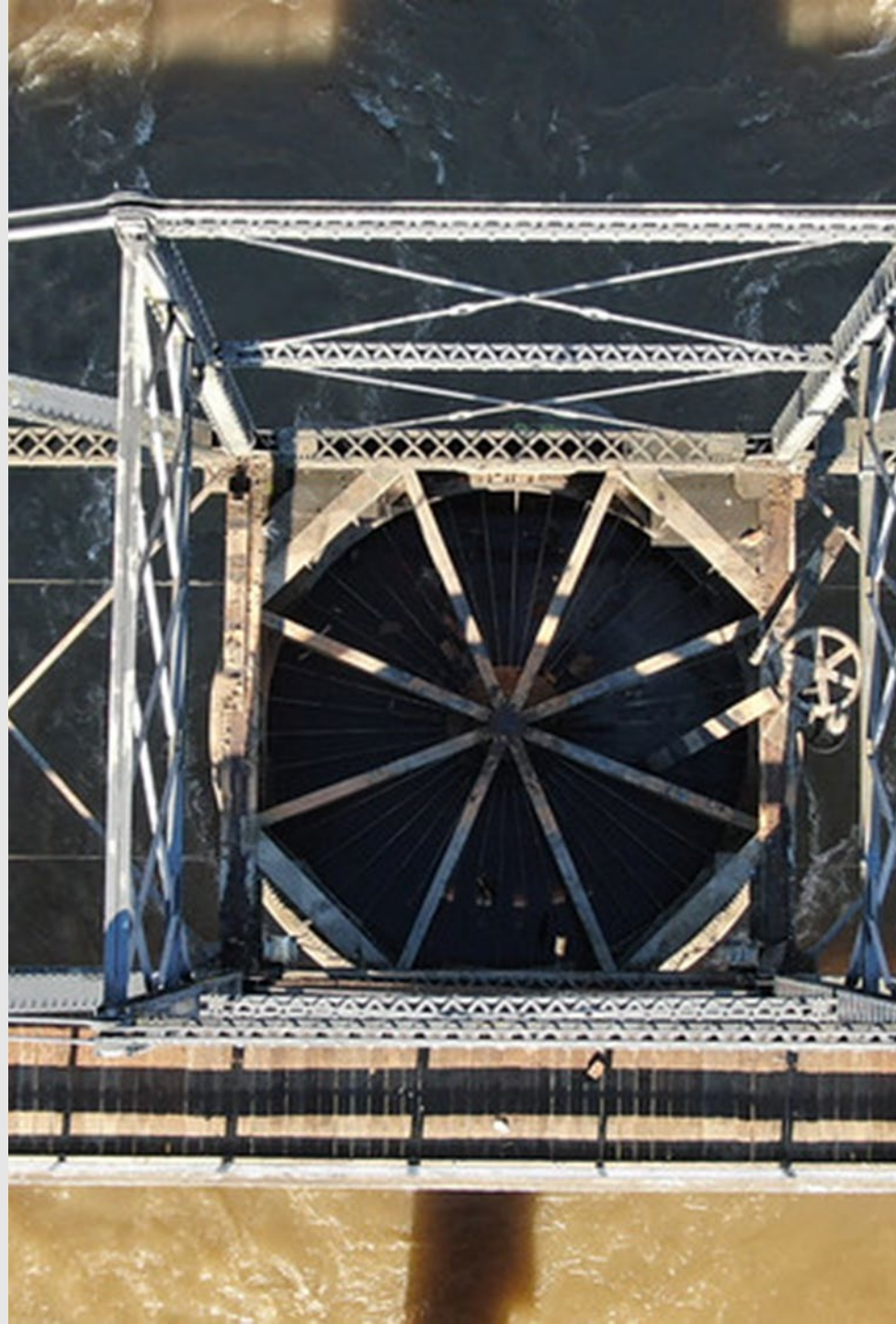
## How to exhibit the turning mechanism?

- It's big!
  - About 7 ft tall and 23 ft wide
- It's solid steel!
  - Can't see through it when standing next to it













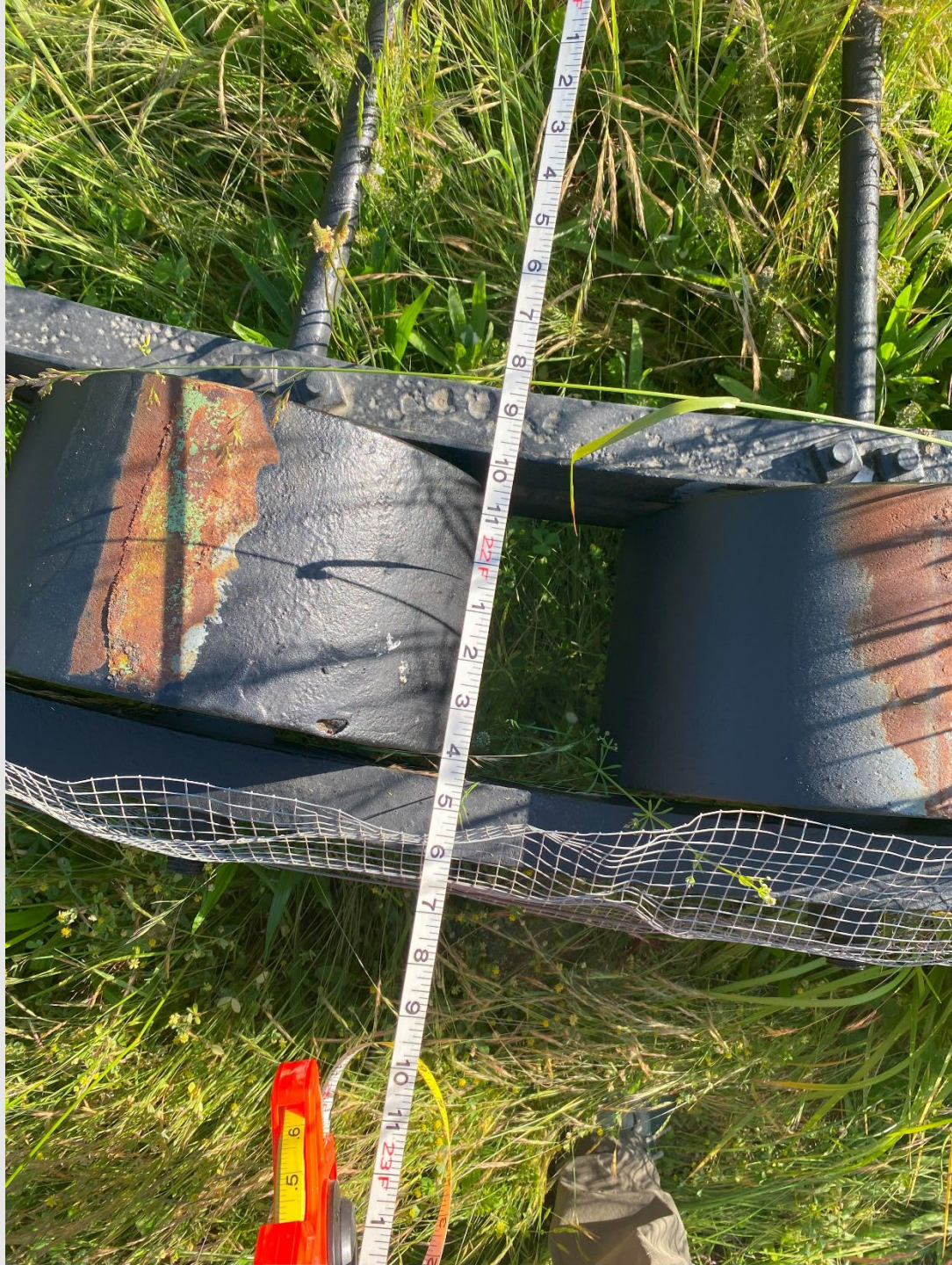






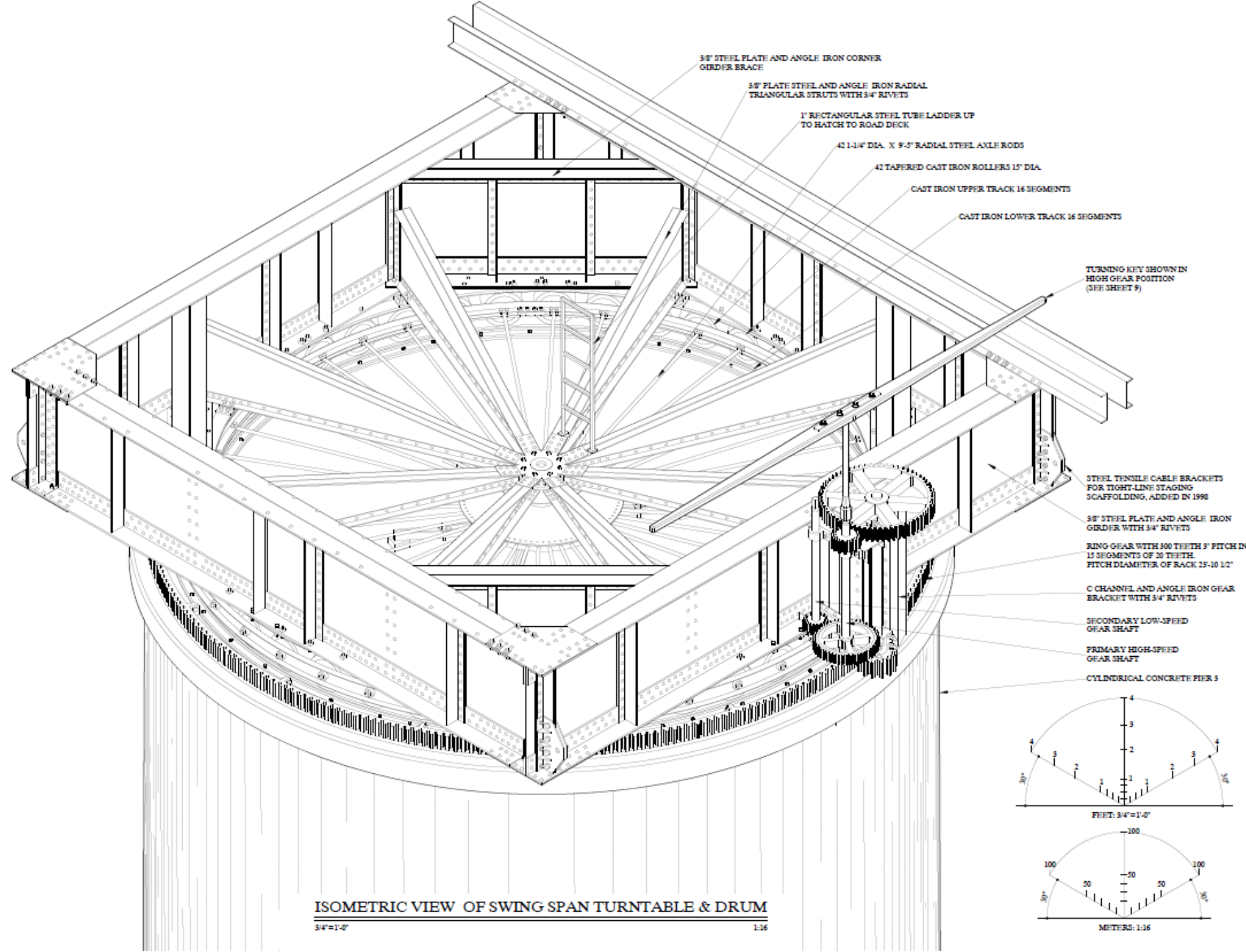








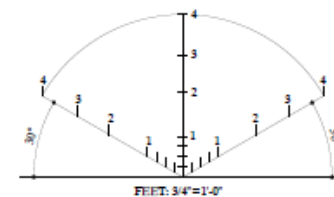




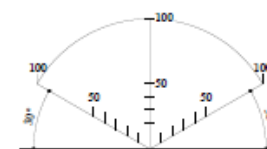
ISOMETRIC VIEW OF SWING SPAN TURNTABLE & DRUM

3/4"=1'-0"

1:16



FEET: 3/4"=1'-0"



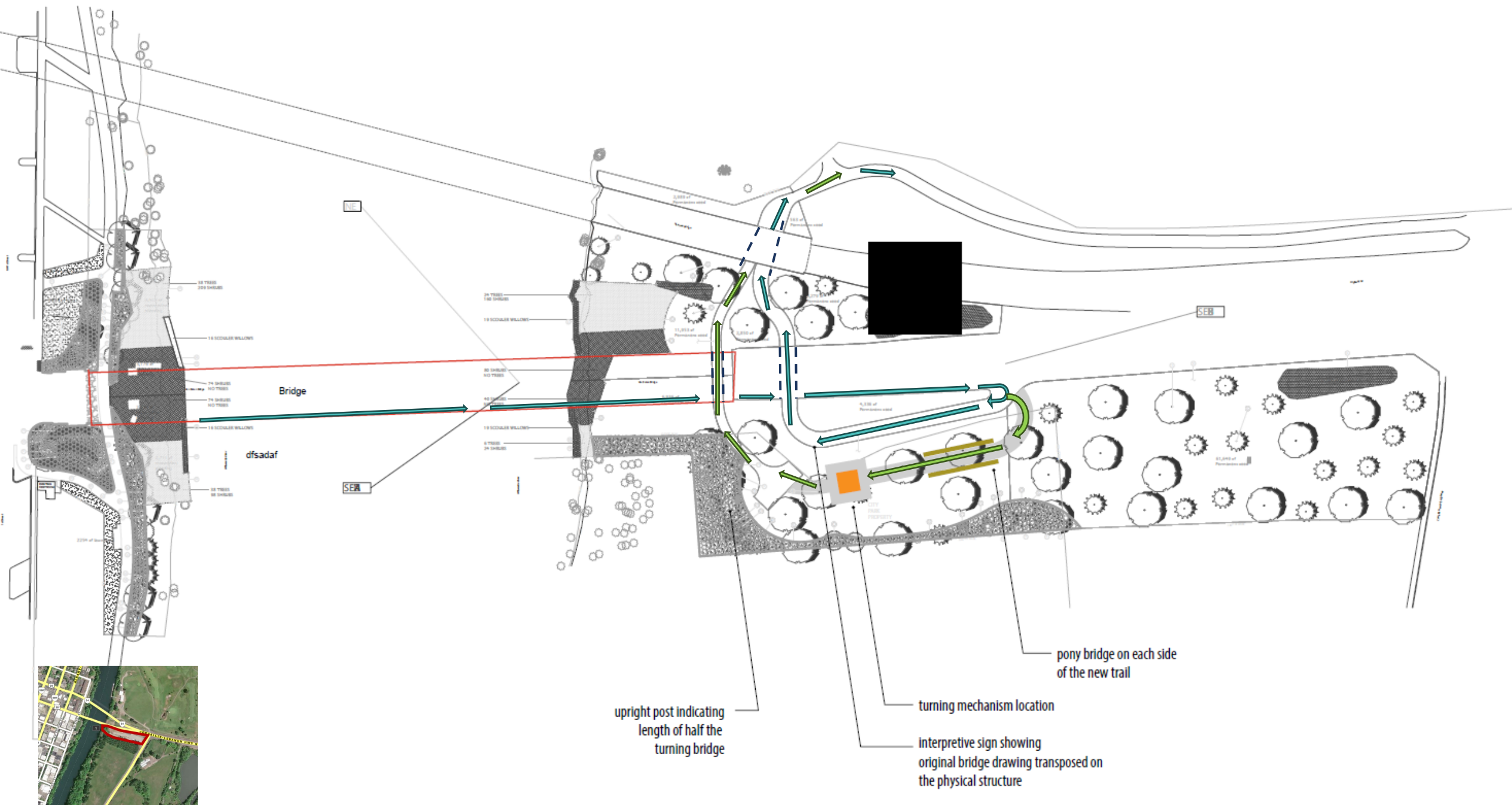
METERS: 1:16



# The Project So Far

- ODOT proposed a location for consideration
- East bank of Willamette River
- Current location of construction yard





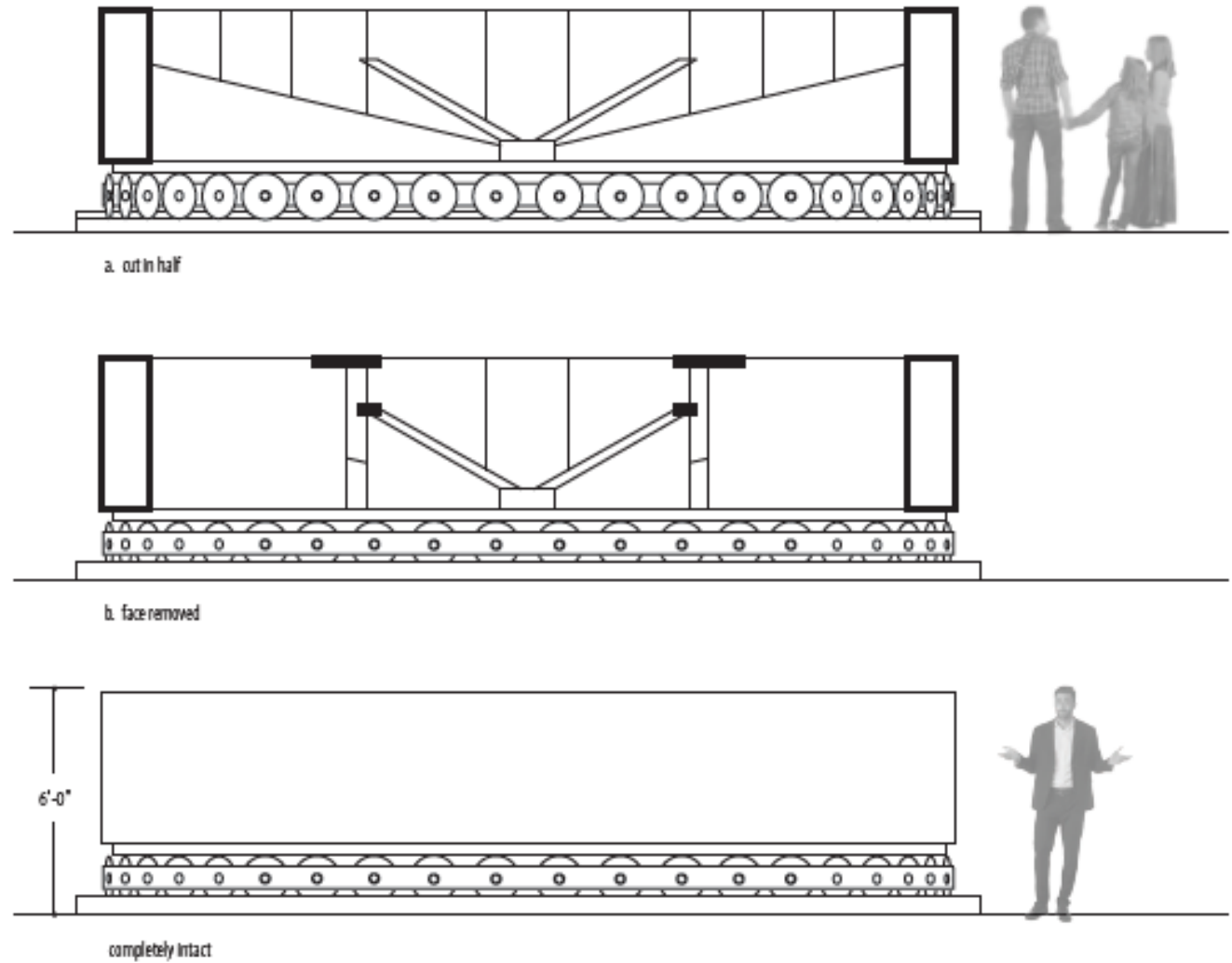




## First round of public feedback

- Four thematic areas of comment
  - Location and Access
  - Park, river, and trail connections
  - Cost and upkeep
  - Clear interpretation
- 110 survey responses
- Six in-person meetings and an open house

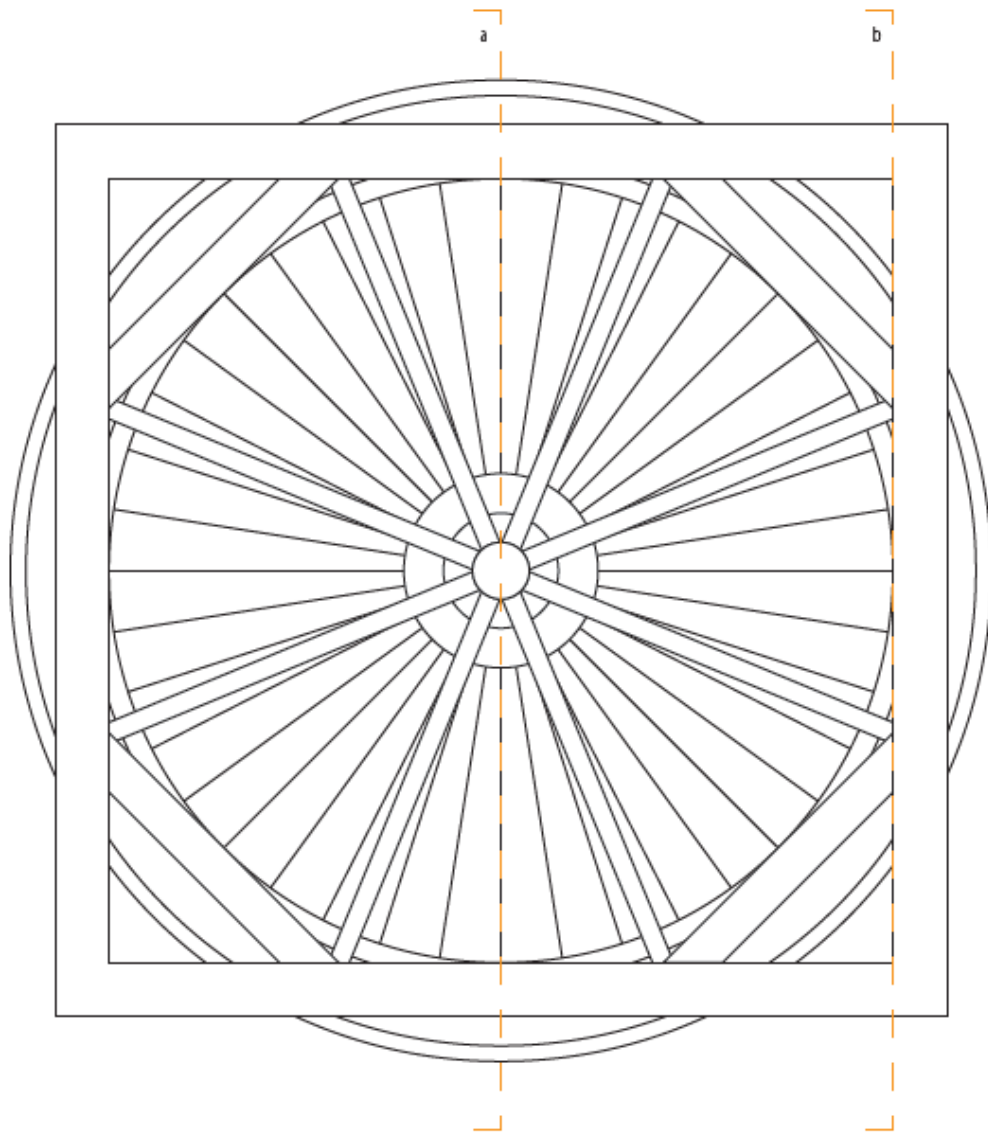
# Cog is large!



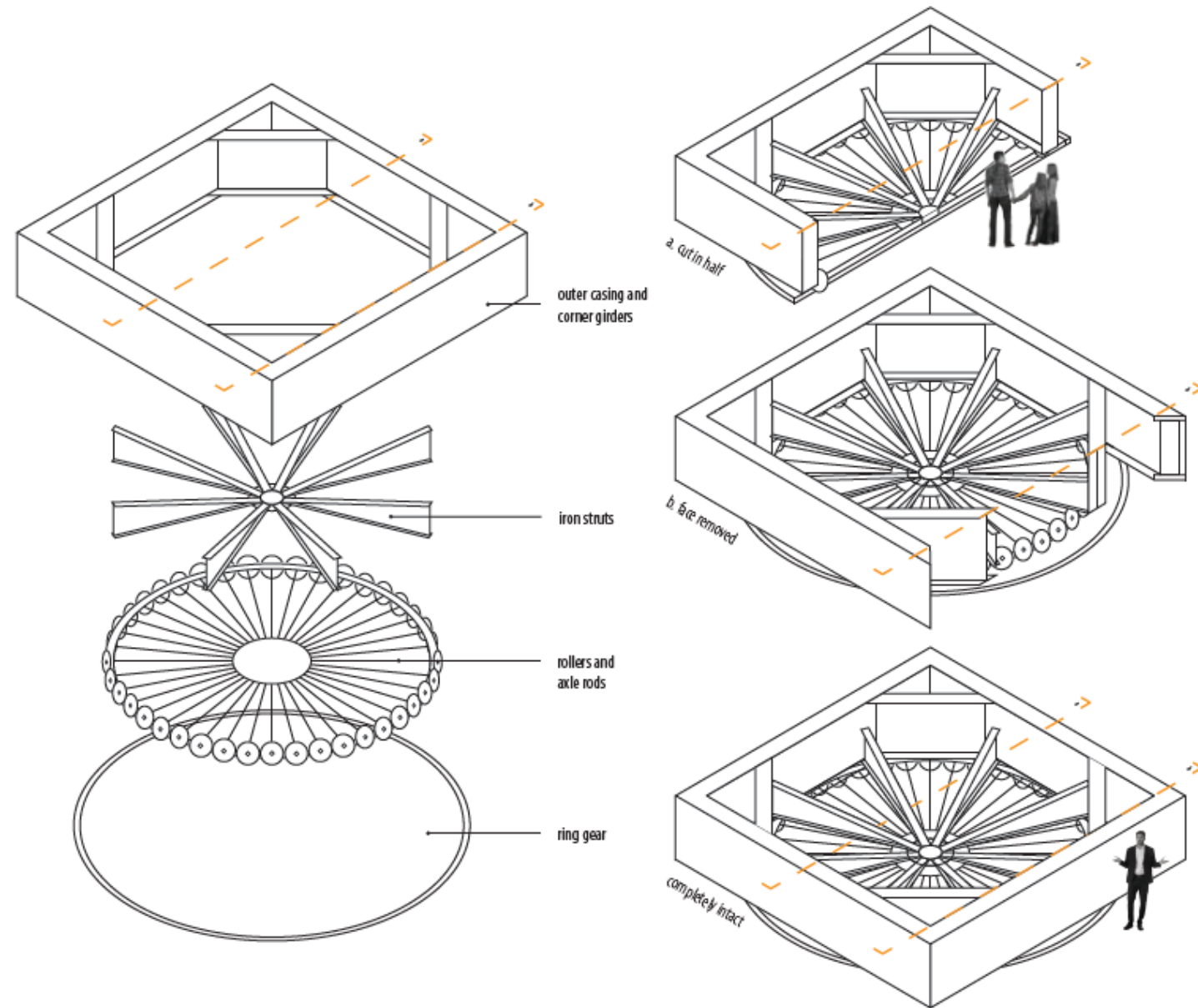
2

cog mechanism diagram - sections

1/4" = 1'-0"



1 cog mechanism diagram - plan  
1/4" = 1'-0"



2 cog mechanism diagram - exploded axon  
nts



# Concept Designs

site design | inspiration & materials



eddy inspiration



crushed compacted gravel in plaza space



native meadow example



metal inlay inspiration - demonstrating mowability



stamped concrete - river rock



stamped concrete - wood timber deck



metal inlay inspiration - demonstrating mowability

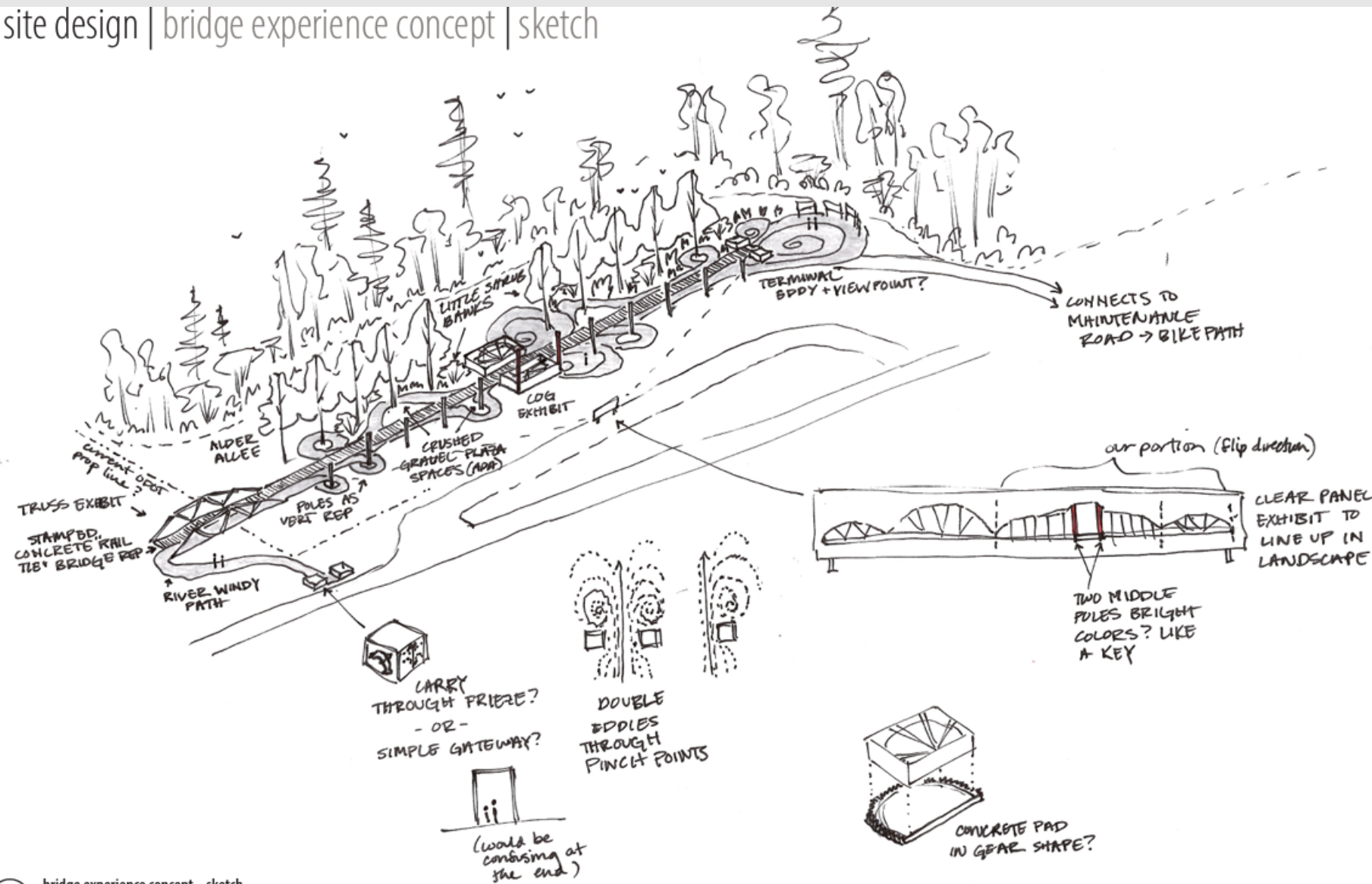


<b>SEARCH LTD.</b>			<b>dient</b>	ODOT region 2 area 4	<b>contact</b>	christine d. hildebrandt, B.S., O.P.M.A.	<b>drawing</b>	Inspiration & materials	<b>notes</b>	<b>by</b>	aw
146 ne yamhill street	telephone	503.843.2005		3700 sw philomath blvd	<b>title</b>	senior transportation project manager	<b>scale</b>	n/a		<b>date</b>	2025.04.30
sheridan	facsimile	503.843.2744		corvallis, oregon 97333	<b>email</b>	christine.d.hildebrandt@odot.oregon.gov	<b>code</b>	VBB-002 (SEA-4489)		<b>version</b>	2
oregon 97378	email	info@seareach.com			<b>phone</b>	541.971.2044	<b>project</b>	van buren bridge interpretation		<b>page</b>	12.0



# East Side

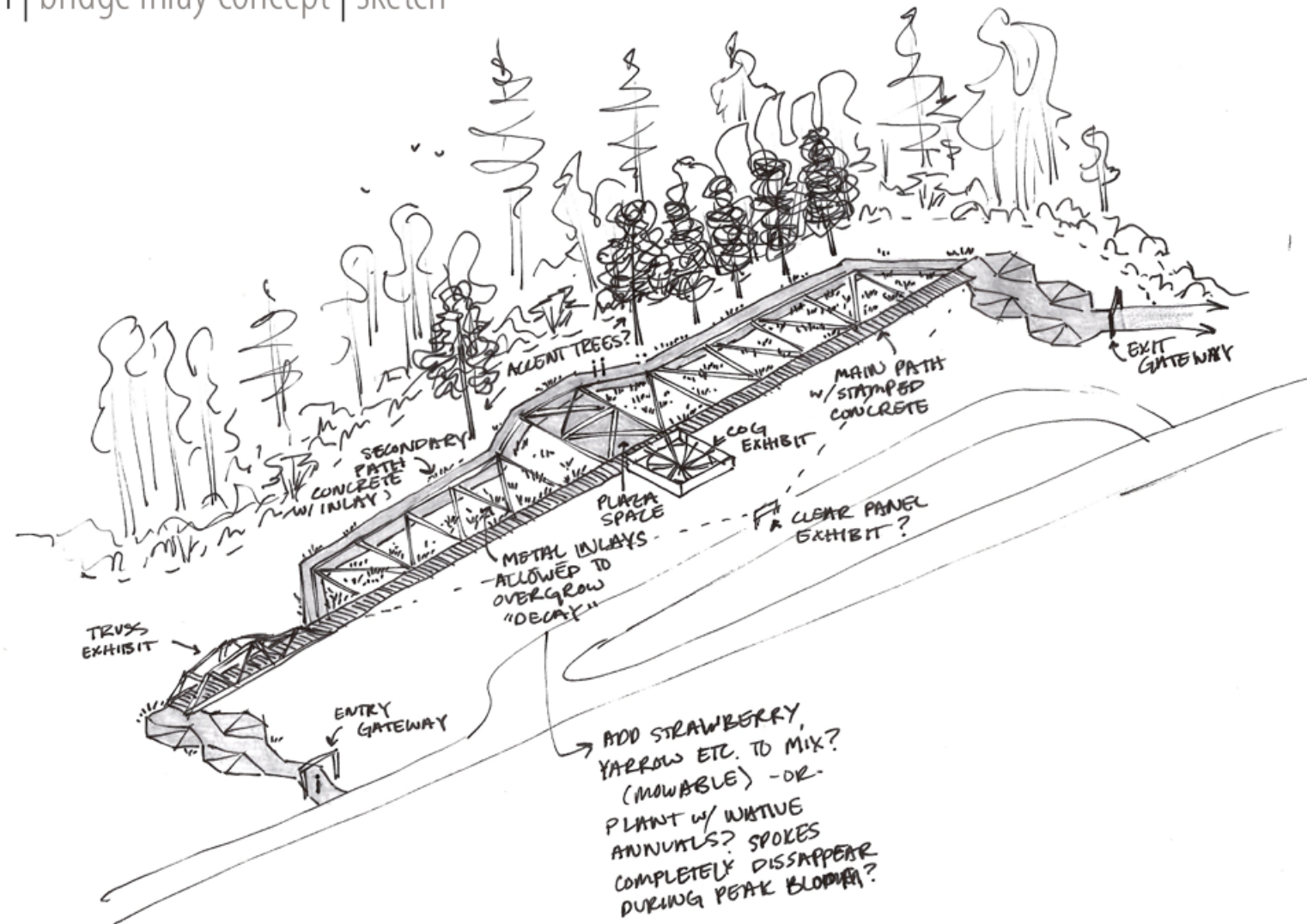
site design | bridge experience concept | sketch



1 bridge experience concept - sketch  
nts

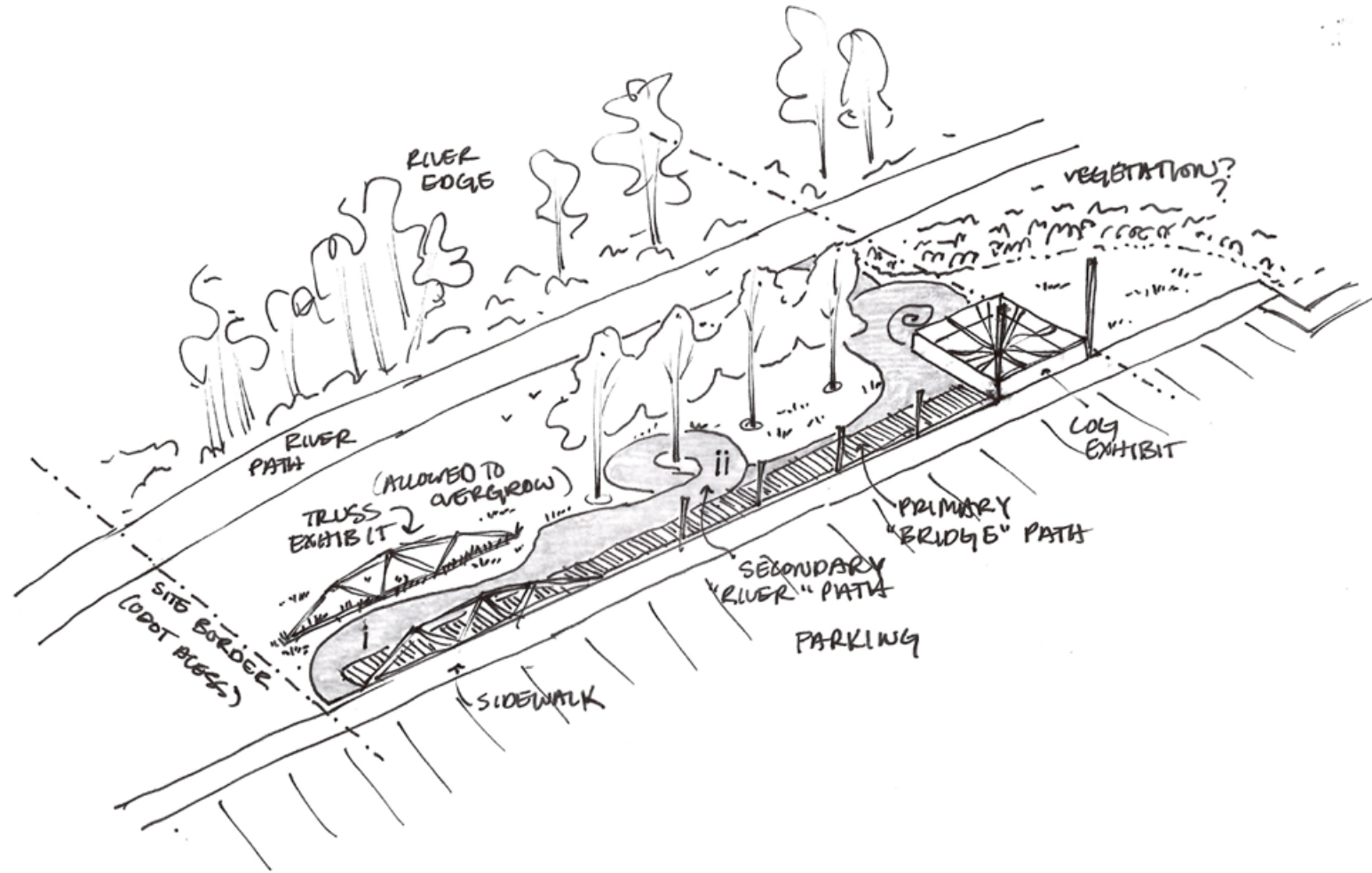
## East Side

site design | bridge inlay concept | sketch





## West Side



# Moving on from the East side design

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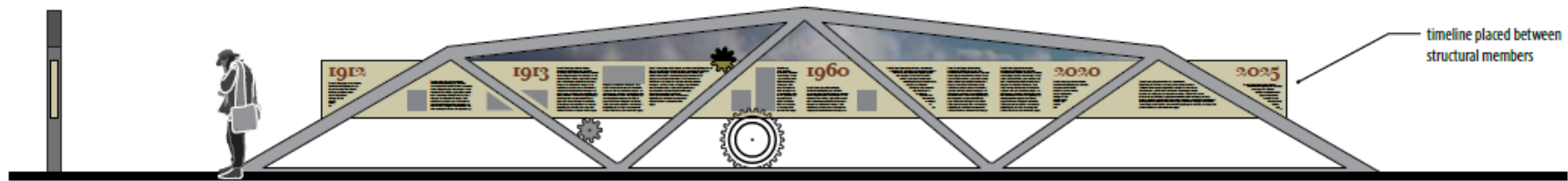
- Time sensitive
  - Cons outweighed the pros
  - We've crossed it off the list of options
- Biggest concerns were:
    - No parking
    - Flooding potential
    - Far from main pedestrian traffic



# Interpretive Themes

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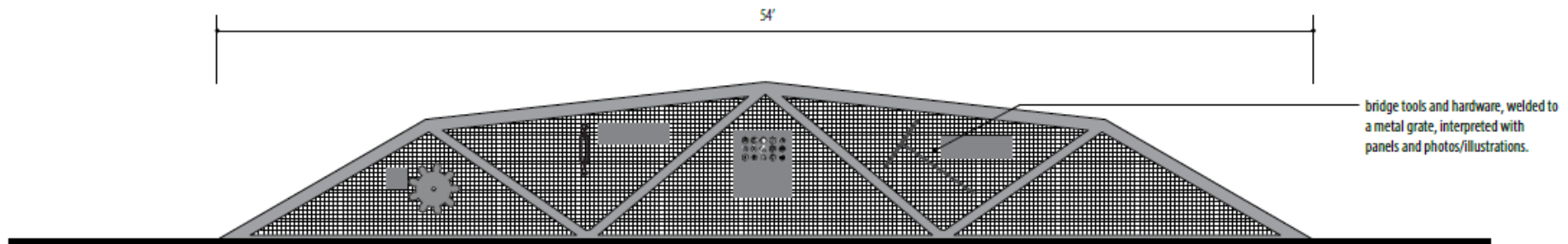
- Consulting parties are invited to comment on interpretive themes and potential exhibits
- Van Buren Bridge History
  - Ferry days
  - Citizens demand a bridge
  - Bridging the centuries
  - Challenges and changes
  - Time takes a toll
  - Preserving the bridge
- The turning mechanism
  - Engineering
- Willamette River Natural History
  - Floodplain forest
  - Historic floods
  - Freshwater mussels
  - River birds



1 pony bridge section timeline option  
nts



2 pony bridge section traffic option  
nts



3 pony bridge section hardware option  
nts



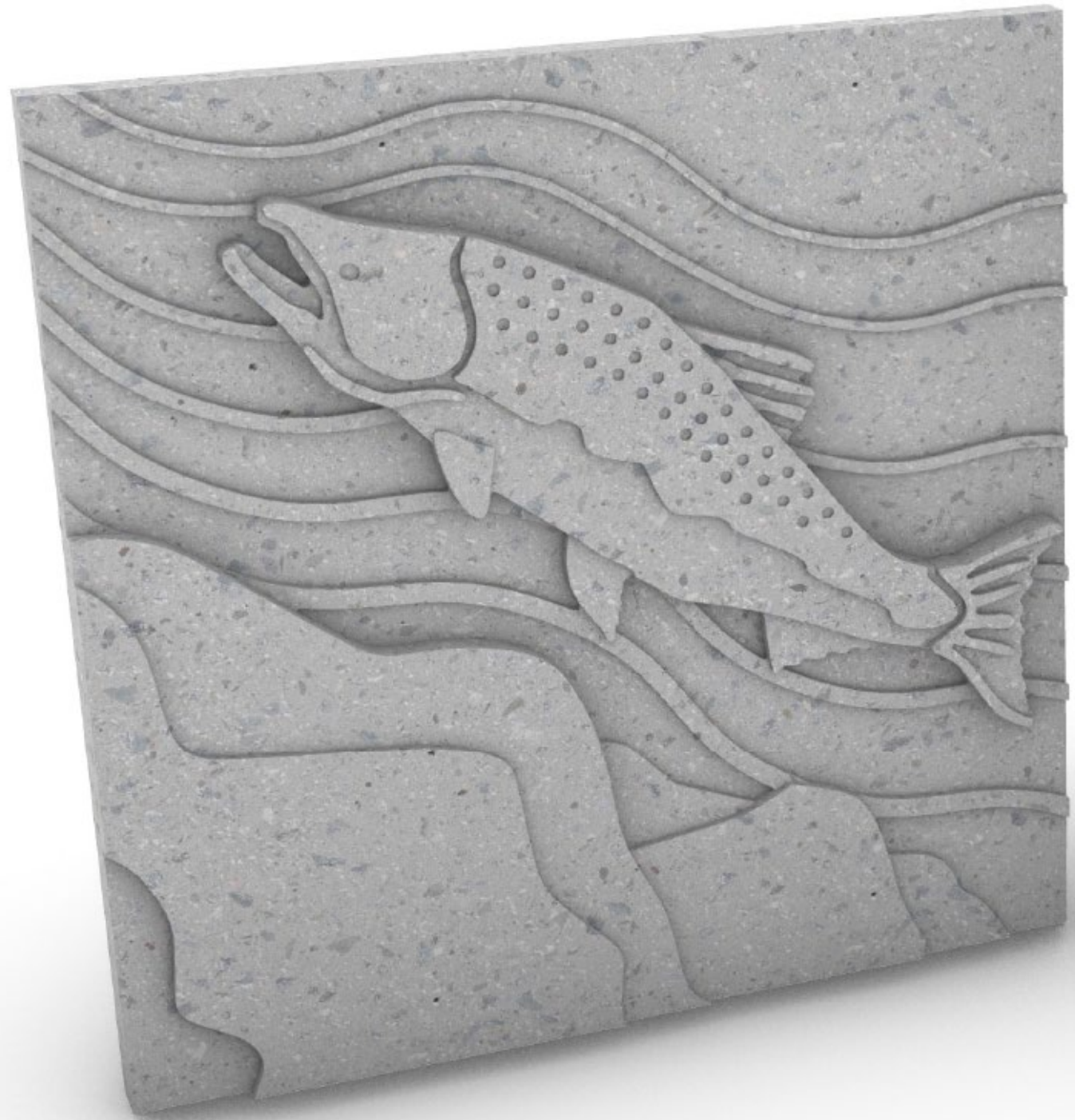
## What's next?

- New round of consulting
- Continued work on interpretive themes
- Deliberation on new location possibilities
- New public outreach effort
- Working closely with the City of Corvallis Parks Dept.



## Bonus – Decorative Friezes

- Several designs will decorate the pedestrian side of the railing
- This salmon is an example





# Keep in touch

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