HIGHWAY COVER CONCEPT

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED HYBRID 3 COVER CONCEPT?

The Proposed Hybrid 3 Cover Concept is the community’s preferred design option for a highway cover that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities. The cover would be able to support buildings from three up to six stories tall, maximize developable space and serve as a foundation for a new urban landscape in the central city.

THE LATEST

In response to feedback from the community and the City of Portland about the initial proposed design, an Independent Cover Assessment evaluated potential highway cover designs under the direction of the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Executive Steering Committee. A design option called the Proposed Hybrid 3 Cover Concept received the strongest community support. The community viewed this design concept as the most effective at supporting the community’s vision for a revitalized Albina neighborhood and most closely aligned with the project values. The Historic Albina Advisory Board endorses the current design, which will reconnect the local streets and enhance safety and access for people walking, biking and rolling through the Rose Quarter area.

Since September 2021, ODOT has been moving forward with the new Proposed Hybrid 3 Cover Concept design. As a result, the City of Portland formally rejoined the project in July 2022 through an Intergovernmental Agreement with ODOT. The city’s involvement in the project will help inform highway cover governance, land uses and local street circulation.

Construction on the project could begin in late 2023 following a decision from the Federal Highway Administration on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment.

For more details about the construction timeline, visit the project website at i5rosequarter.org

November 2022
**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

1. **Highway Cover**
   A new cover over I-5, similar to a very wide bridge, that reconnects local streets and creates new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities.

2. **Hancock Crossing**
   A new east–west roadway crossing over I-5 that reconnects Hancock Street across the highway, adding another crossing north of Broadway and Weidler.

3. **Multimodal Local Street Improvements**
   A variety of street improvements for people walking, biking and rolling.

4. **Green Loop Connection**
   A link on Broadway and Weidler to the city’s Green Loop, a 6-mile bike and pedestrian path that allows people to travel safely through the heart of the city.

5. **Auxiliary Lanes and Shoulders**
   Ramp-to-ramp connections, paired with wider shoulders, that improve safety and reduce congestion at the state’s top bottleneck.

6. **I-5 Southbound Off-ramp Relocation**
   Relocation of the I-5 southbound off-ramp from Vancouver/Broadway to the south, connecting with N Wheeler Avenue.

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**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS DESIGN**

- Provides one larger and continuous highway cover that could support buildings up to three or six stories, depending on the final design. The original design featured two smaller, lighter covers.
- Maintains the N Flint Avenue connection and reconnects NE Hancock Street to N Hancock Street across I-5.
- Relocates the I-5 southbound off-ramp at N Broadway farther south to NE Wheeler Avenue at the Moda Center.
- Connects the City of Portland’s proposed Green Loop for pedestrians and cyclists on Broadway and Weidler streets, rather than through a separate off-street bridge (formerly the Clackamas Crossing).

**BENEFITS OF NEW HIGHWAY COVER**

- Better supports the community’s vision for a revitalized Albina neighborhood.
- Maximizes developable land and reconnects the local streets that are more pedestrian and business friendly with less I-5 traffic.
- Reduces exposure to noise and pollution from the highway and creates a more vibrant street environment.
- Supports neighborhood connectivity, community access and walkability.
- Avoids impacts to historic properties and community redevelopment sites.
- Provides needed improvements to increase safety and traffic flow on the highway.
- Is earthquake-safe by meeting seismic standards.