

MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

This measure would allow the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to expand permanent right of way for the Interstate 205 (I-205) Abernethy Bridge above Jon Storm Park and Sportcraft Boat Ramp Park by approximately 15 feet on each side of the bridge and allow the temporary occupancy of a portion of both parks during the construction of the I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvements Project.

The construction impacts to the parks will last up to four years after the beginning of bridge construction. All park areas impacted would be restored to current conditions or better following construction.

These improvements require voter approval because Chapter X of the Oregon City Charter prohibits improvements on park property, other than for recreational purposes, and a change in the legal status of park land without a vote of the people.

Jon Storm Park and Sportcraft Boat Ramp Park are adjacent to the Abernethy Bridge on the west bank of the Willamette River. ODOT proposes to add a travel lane in each direction on I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 99E and ensure this designated life-line route is quickly functional to bring life-saving services following a Magnitude 8+ Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake by seismically upgrading the Abernethy Bridge and eight other bridges in the corridor. These activities would require approximately 15 feet of additional ODOT right of way on each side of the bridge. At its closest location, the requested right of way would be occupied by elements of the Abernethy Bridge approximately 14 feet above Jon Storm Park and 32 feet above Sportcraft Boat Ramp Park. Seismic upgrades would also require approximately 0.3 acres of subsurface rights to be conveyed to ODOT. Recreational activities could continue in the area under the bridge following construction. ODOT also proposes to temporarily occupy approximately 0.4 acres of Jon Storm Park immediately adjacent to the bridge for up to 4 years and approximately 0.3 acres of Sportcraft Boat Ramp Park for up to 2 1/2 years during construction. Recreational use of both parks would be maintained during construction. A portion of ODOT right of way and currently undeveloped Oregon City property across Clackamette Drive from Jon Storm Park would be occupied to allow for development of additional parking for park users, as would the area in and immediately adjacent to Abernethy Creek to allow for stream enhancements.

At the request of ODOT, the Oregon City Commission approved sending this measure to the voters. A "yes" vote would allow the conveyance of public right of way as necessary to accommodate these improvements, increase parking near the bridge in and temporary occupancy of Jon Storm and Sportcraft Boat Ramp parks. A "no" vote would deny the requested right of way, increased parking, and temporary occupancy.