What is the Guy West Bridge Restoration Project?

This project will involve needed repairs and repainting of the Guy West Bridge – a suspension bridge over the American River. The bridge provides direct access for pedestrians and bicyclists to the parkway and is also the primary access route between the Campus Commons residential area and CSU, Sacramento.

Who is managing the project?

The City of Sacramento is the owner of the bridge and responsible for this project.

What is the project’s purpose?

The Guy West Bridge was constructed in 1966 and has been in service for approximately 48 years. The project will ensure the continued safe performance of the bridge by making necessary repairs and will restore her to her former glory as one of only a few small replicas of the Golden Gate Bridge.

What work will be done to the bridge?

Construction of this project will include the following items of work on the existing bridge structure:

- Restoration of suspension cables and connections
- Deck and railing repairs
- Structural truss frame repairs
- New paint
- Minor handrail maintenance
- Bearing pad replacement
- Replacement of loose utility conduit

How will improvements be made?

Due to construction access logistics and bridge loading constraints, construction will be divided into two phases. The first phase will focus on restoring the eastern side of the bridge and the second phase will focus on restoring the western side of the bridge. Construction equipment and activity would be focused on alternating sides of the river accordingly. It is possible, however, that some work may be performed on both sides of the river concurrently, within allowable construction schedule windows as defined by environmental and public user considerations.

Most of the improvement work will be performed above the ground from the bridge itself. Bridge deck, main cables, suspender cables, and handrail systems will be repaired from the deck. Structural frame repairs, bearing pad replacement, and utility conduit work will be done below the deck level. Complete repainting will be performed on structural steel, both above and below the deck.

When will construction occur?

Construction will begin in summer of 2014 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014. Work will generally take place during daylight hours Monday through Friday, and possibly some Saturdays and Sundays.
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What can be expected during construction and how will this project impact the public?

The City is committed to keeping the bridge open to users for most of the construction with minimal weekend closures. Equipment will be set up in limited fenced-in areas. During the construction period, public impacts will mostly include a narrower bridge path for pedestrians and bicyclists. Bridge users and the surrounding community may also experience some construction-related noise and dust, which will be minimized as much as possible.

Although a series of short-term weekend-only bridge closures may be necessary, the City is committed to avoiding full bridge closures for the entire length of the project. The minimal full bridge closures will occur only on the weekend from 6 p.m. on Friday evening until 5 a.m. Monday morning with a detour in place.

July through Fall 2014

Foot and bike traffic will be detoured to the H Street Bridge, located about 0.6 miles downstream on the American River. Proper public notice, including signage, flyers, media alerts, and e-blasts will be provided 10 days in advance of the closures to alert the public.

A longer detour may be required due to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee project taking place concurrently around the H Street banks. Should both projects require a detour at the same time, pedestrians and bicyclists will be directed to utilize the H Street bridge but will have to travel there via Campus Commons Road and University Avenue. Notification for the longer detour option will be provided 10 days prior. All detours will only occur over the weekend to minimize impacts as much as possible.

How will the surrounding environment be protected?

The City and their project team conducted an environmental assessment to understand potential construction-related impacts and how to address them. Because the bridge is located within the environmentally sensitive American River Parkway, care is being taken to limit construction activity windows and employ specific methods to ensure protection of the area’s valuable resources.

How can the public find out about traffic impacts during construction and stay updated on the progress of the project?

The City will be communicating well in advance of all activities via the project website, e-blasts, signage on the bridge, and working closely with Sacramento State University to communicate project updates.

Stay Updated!

Visit the project webpage at http://portal.cityofsacramento.org
(search: Guy West Bridge)

H Street Levee Project: