

Sellwood Bridge project meeting minority hiring goals, managers say

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The Sellwood Bridge Project is exceeding its minority hiring goal, project managers say. Minority contractors make up 23 percent of the firms hired to work on the bridge, while the goal for minority participation was 20 percent.

Ian Cannon, for Multnomah County and Michael Baker, for the project consultants David Evans and Associates, reported the contracting diversity numbers to Multnomah County Commissioners, at their regular board meeting, Thursday, Sept. 6.

Of the \$35.3 million spent so far, \$8.1 million is going to minority contracting firms, Baker said, and 48 of the 64 subcontractors hired are classified as, “Disadvantaged, Minority, Women or Emerging Small Businesses.”

And when it comes to the workers hired for the job, the figures are slightly higher.

“Our workforce is 25 percent minority which exceeds our target of 20 percent,” Baker said.

The project has had less success so far, in recruiting women workers. The target is 14 percent, but only 6 percent of hires are women.