

## Could It Be True? Is It Really Back?

BY: PROTECT TUALATIN PARKS COMMITTEE

Many Tualatin residents were relieved when the Tualatin City Council notified Metro via a letter last summer that they wished to remove the so-called “**Bridge over the Park**” from the Metro Regional Transportation Plan (also known as 2035 RTP) before the plan was approved.

The City Council’s letter indicated they were requesting this action because of widespread public concern that the project would be detrimental to the community.



Recently this proposed connector over the park has popped up again.

At the November 22, 2010, City Council Work Session, the bridge reappeared on the 2035 RTP Map prepared for that meeting and presented by city staff. As of January 7, 2011, no correction has been issued and the map has stayed on the record. So is the bridge project back?

Didn’t we see headlines that it had been removed? Has this project been reinstated as a possibility without any notice to the public?

Our opposition has repeatedly stated that Ballot Measure 34-186 isn’t needed because the bridge was withdrawn. **Well maybe it was withdrawn and maybe it wasn’t, but the problem isn’t just the bridge or other potential projects; it is the process.**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Citizen Involvement is working to implement a process for real citizen involvement in the City’s decision-making. If successful, Citizen Involvement efforts will enhance and improve two-way communication relating to a wide range of issues. We

are hopeful that this will be achieved. However, that effort is **in conjunction with, not instead of**, the proposed park protection charter amendment. **The need for the charter amendment stands alone.**



The charter amendment’s only focus is protecting our parklands. Parks add value to our homes, neighborhoods, and our lives. The decision to sell or destroy any parkland hurts us, the residents, and should be put to a vote of the people. That’s why residents of other cities, such as Oregon City and West Linn, have voted for a charter amendment and why we should as well.

Tualatin needs such a charter amendment. It may not solve all problems but it does ensure that we have a voice in major decisions regarding the uses of our parks.

Measure 34-186 will require that any proposed **major non-park** use of city parkland receive a prior positive vote from Tualatin residents thereby **guaranteeing authentic public involvement and government transparency.**

Members of the Protect Tualatin Parks Committee ask Tualatin residents to change the process and protect our parks. **Vote YES on City Charter Amendment Ballot Measure 34-186**, which will go to voters on **March 8th** (ballots will be mailed February 17).

For more information, contact Protect Tualatin Parks at 503-807-0129 or email: [protecttualatinparks@gmail.com](mailto:protecttualatinparks@gmail.com).