

Hamilton's Portland Ave. to Port of Tacoma Rd. Project Sets the Tone for 2015

There's a popular song from the 1990's that pretty much sums up what kind of year 2015 will be for Hamilton. As the Green Day song goes: "Another turning point – a fork stuck in the road."

For Hamilton the award of the \$134 million I-5 Portland Ave. to Port of Tacoma Rd. project represents the giant pitchfork-sized fork in the road. Hamilton has re-configured its resources to assure a successful start to the project and the Portland Ave. team – led by Jeff Firth and Randy Burg – is putting the wheels in motion for mobilizing and getting started at the site just north of the Tacoma Dome on I-5. In typical Hamilton fashion, we are hitting the ground running in full stride. Property for a field office has been leased at the Washington town of Fife where we will co-locate with Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The project management team (in addition to Jeff and Randy — Craig Almont, Reid Highberger, Mark Sitz, Kevin Parrish and Jeff Phillips) is preparing submittals. In their 'spare time', the guys are figuring out where

they and their families are going to live during the next three years.

The Project

Simply stated, this project will widen I-5 in Tacoma from Portland Avenue to the Port of Tacoma Road to provide room for a new HOV lane in each direction and four general-purpose lanes in each direction. It is a tough, technical job that takes place under heavy, heavy traffic. To accomplish the widening, Hamilton will work with WSDOT to rebuild the I-5 Puyallup River bridges, reconstruct the I-5/SR 167 interchange, improve the Portland Avenue interchange and repave all the lanes on I-5 within the project limits. A portion of the project is located on the reservation of the Puyallup Indian Tribe and as such Hamilton is working closely with the Puyallups to augment our work force.

But that's not all...

Even before this job was awarded Hamilton had a great deal of bidding success in 2014. The goal for 2014 was to add \$150 million of new work and we were well



Project team: (Seated in front from left: Randy Burg and Reid Highberger) Back row from left: Craig Almont, Jeff Firth, Kevin Parrish and Mark Sitz.

on our way to reaching that goal before Portland Ave. We continue big work throughout Oregon, four jobs in Alaska, three new projects in Colorado and rail work throughout the West. In total Hamilton added \$239.5 million worth of work to its backlog during 2014 – the biggest year in the 76 year history of the company.

Needless to say, the focus of the organization shifts as a result of all this and in the months to come you can be assured you will be meeting lots and lots of new colleagues —probably taking on some new responsibilities—and—to paraphrase the Green Day song: We hope you'll have the time of your life! ■

WRB Named Best Transportation Project in the Nation

The I-5 Willamette River Bridge project—the largest bridge project ever undertaken by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)—and built by CM/GC contractor Hamilton Construction Co. – received construction's top honors today from ENR – the Engineering News Record. The project, earlier named as the Best Project over all in the Pacific Northwest was recently named the Best Transportation Project in the entire nation! The project also won top honors in the Safety category for the Northwest. Accepting the award during the Northwest Regional competition in Seattle were Project Manager Jeff Firth and Construction Manager Con O'Connor. ■



I-5 Portland Ave. project site as it appears now.



Artist rendering of new bridge to be completed by 2018.

