EARTHQUAKE READY BURNSIDE BRIDGE

Historic Landmarks Commission Briefing

Department of Community Services
Transportation Division

October 08, 2018

1. Project Update

Earthquake Ready Burnside Project Timeline

Where are we now?

1. Project Update

Feasibility Study Process and Findings

What we've done since last meeting?

- Published the Draft Feasibility Study Report, Purpose and Need, Range of Alternatives
- Conducted outreach to get input on findings

What's next?

- October Committee Meetings
  - Senior Agency Staff – **Oct 11th**
  - Community Task Force – **Oct 17th**
  - Policy Group – **Oct 30th**
- Board of Commissioners Meeting **Nov 1st**
  - Board adoption of Feasibility Study findings
  - Feasibility Phase concludes
  - Environmental Review Phase begins

1. Project Update

Draft Feasibility Report and Purpose & Need

Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge
Better. Safer. Connected.

Multnomah County

DRAFT Statement of Purpose and Need

Introduction

Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ), making it subject to some of the world's most powerful, recurring earthquakes. Studies show that the most recent CSZ earthquake occurred just over 300 years ago and that there is a significant risk that the next major earthquake will occur within the lifetimes of the majority of Oregon residents.[1] The best available science warns that given current conditions, the next major CSZ event is expected to result in thousands of deaths, widespread damage to our region's critical infrastructure, and long-term adverse social and economic impacts.[2]

The effects of the next CSZ earthquake can be reduced through preparation, including creating seismically resilient transportation "lifeline routes," particularly to provide access to critical facilities in urban areas. Such lifeline routes will facilitate post-earthquake emergency response, rescue and evacuation, as well as enable post-disaster regional recovery and help prevent permanent population loss and long-term economic decline.[2] The importance of having a seismically resilient lifeline route across the Willamette River is why Multnomah County has proposed to make the Burnside Bridge earthquake ready.

Project Purpose

The primary purpose of this project is to create a seismically resilient Burnside Street lifeline crossing of the Willamette River that will remain fully operational and accessible for vehicles and other modes of transportation immediately following a major CSZ earthquake. A seismically resilient Burnside Bridge will support the region's ability to provide rapid and reliable emergency response, rescue and evacuation after a major earthquake, as well as enable post-earthquake economic recovery. In addition to ensuring that the crossing is seismically resilient, the purpose is also to provide a long-term, low-maintenance and safe crossing for all users.

Project Need

The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project is intended to address the following needs:

Need for a Seismically Resilient River Crossing and Lifeline Route

The Cascadia Subduction Zone: Geologic evidence shows that more than 40 major earthquakes have originated along the CSZ fault over the last 10,000 years. The interval between CSZ earthquakes has ranged from a few decades to over a thousand years. The last major earthquake in Oregon occurred 318 years ago, a timespan that exceeds 75 percent of the intervals between major Oregon earthquakes. The Oregon Resilience Plan predicts extensive casualties, infrastructure damage and economic losses from the next CSZ earthquake.[2]

Seismically Vulnerable Willamette River Bridges and Roads: All of the older bridges crossing the Willamette River are expected to suffer seismic damage in a major earthquake. Some are expected to collapse, and none are expected to be usable immediately following the earthquake. In addition, the

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1. Project Update

EARTHQUAKE READY BURNSIDE BRIDGE

Recommended Range of Alternatives

ENHANCED SEISMIC RETROFIT

An upgrade of the existing bridge to meet current seismic standards. Because a retrofit over the I-5 corridor and railroad tracks is not feasible due to long-term closures of those facilities during construction, that portion of the bridge will be replaced.

REPLACEMENT: Fixed Bridge

A new fixed bridge with a maximum clearance of 97 feet, at about the same location as the current bridge. It would need to be tall enough to allow ships to pass without requiring a movable span. The west landing touches down about three blocks further west than the current bridge, near NW 5th Avenue.

REPLACEMENT: Movable Bridge

A new movable bridge at about the same height and location as the current bridge.

REPLACEMENT: Movable Bridge – NE Couch Connection

A new movable bridge at about the same height as the current bridge. The east landing splits to connect to NE Couch Street. Westbound traffic enters from NE Couch Street.

The **4** recommended options

2. September Engagement

Briefings and Presentations

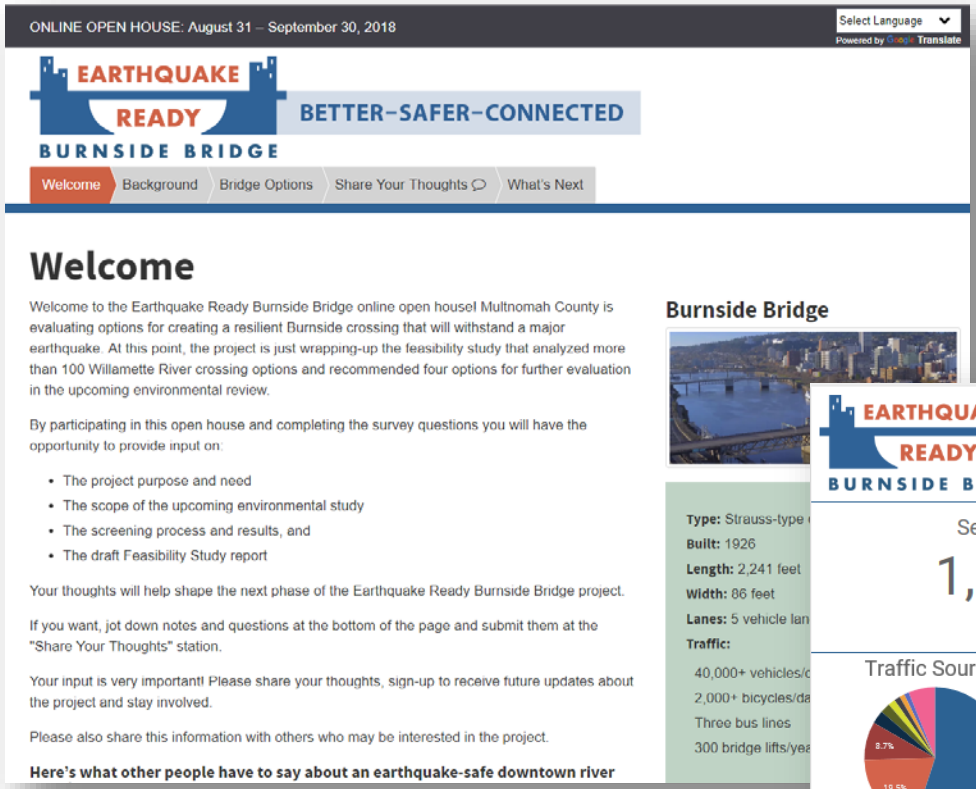
- Historic Landmarks Commission – 6/25/18
- City Flub Friday Forum – 7/27/18
- East Multnomah County Transportation Committee – 8/13/18
- Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization 8/24/18
- ASCE Oregon Chapter Annual Conference – 9/11/18
- MultCo Public Involvement Officers – 9/12/18
- Regional Public Involvement Officers – 9/13/18
- Central Eastside Industrial Council – 10/2/18
- Old Town Community Association – 10/3/18

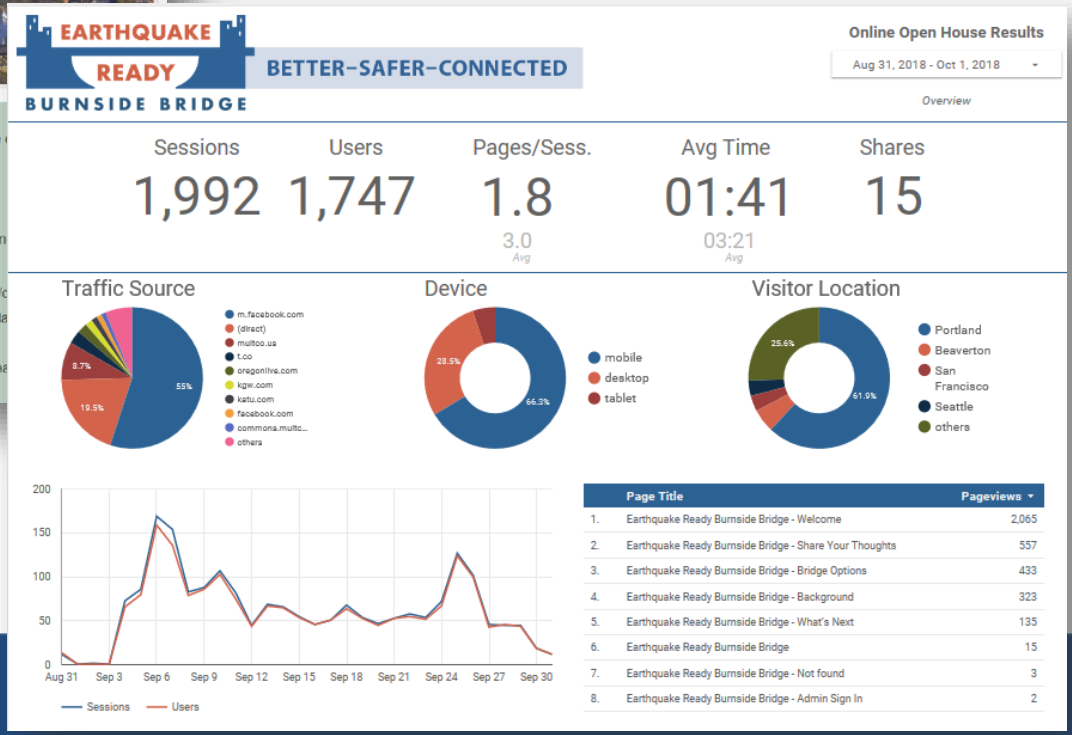
2. September Engagement

Social Services Workshop – July 31, 2018

3. September Engagement

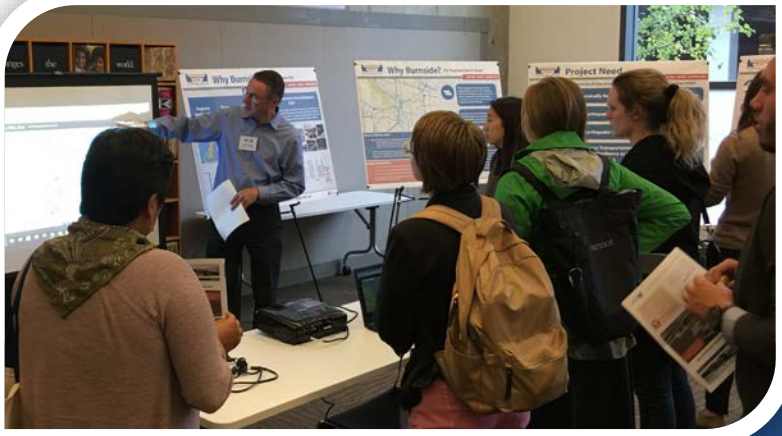
Online Open House





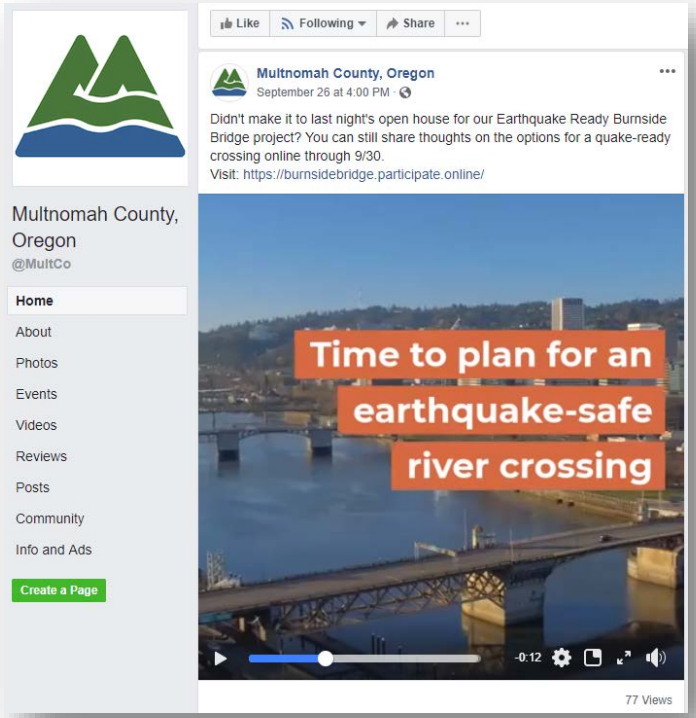
2. September Engagement

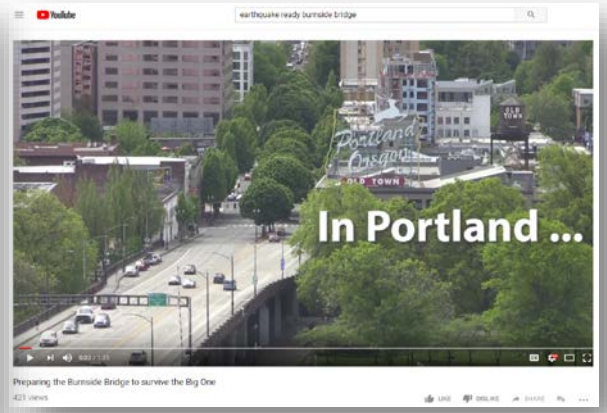
In-Person Open Houses

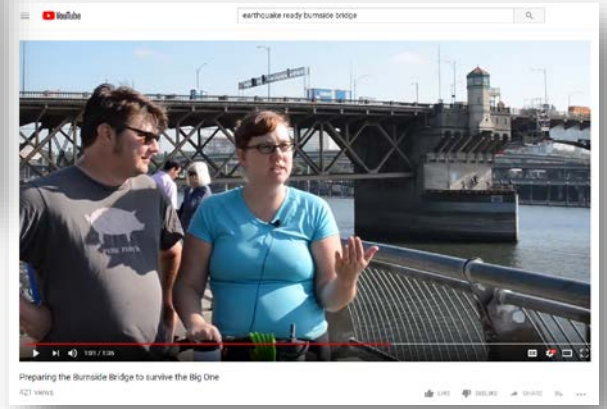


2. September Engagement

Videos and Social Media







EARTHQUAKE READY BURNSIDE BRIDGE

BETTER-SAFER-CONNECTED

We're creating an earthquake-safe downtown river crossing

Located in the heart of Portland, the Burnside Bridge is a regionally established emergency route across the Willamette River. Providing a way to get across the river after a major earthquake will be critical for emergency response, reuniting families and helping our community recover.

Built in 1926, the Burnside Bridge was not designed to survive a large earthquake. Multnomah County is taking the lead on making the Burnside Bridge earthquake ready so our region can respond and recover more quickly.

The project has extensively screened over 100 options for the future of the Burnside Bridge in the draft Feasibility Study. The study recommends a short list of options for additional study in the environmental review. We want to hear your feedback on:

- Recommended range of options
- Project purpose and need
- Scope of the environmental study
- Draft Feasibility Study

Join the conversation!

We're hosting in-person and online opportunities during September where you can review and provide feedback on the work done so far, and weigh-in on what we should consider through the next phase of the project.

Open house event

Tue. Sept. 25, 5-7 p.m.
Fair-haired Dumbbell
11 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (map)

2. September Engagement

By the Numbers

1,747	Online Open House Users
2,455	Project Website Unique Pageviews
56	In-Person Open House Participants
25,663	Mailers Distributed
38	Social Media Posts
4	News Releases and E-Blasts
7	News Coverage Articles
168	Comments Received

2. September Engagement

EARTHQUAKE READY BURNSIDE BRIDGE

What We Heard

- Urgency to get the project done earlier
- Desire for bike paths, pedestrian paths and bus only lanes
- Concerns about impacts to nearby buildings and the overall transportation system
- Most said they agree or strongly agree with choice of recommended options, remarking that they were reasonable and well thought out
- More support for a new bridge than a retrofit, but still some support for retrofit
- More support for movable than fixed, but some support for both
- Views and aesthetics should still be considered, making the bridge an “iconic” part of Portland
- Interest in keeping some historical components/aesthetics of the bridge, concern for demolishing the bridge and its historical importance.

2. September Engagement

Community Task Force Recruitment

- **Outreach**
  - News Release
  - Email Blast
  - City Club Friday Forum
  - DJC Article
  - Social Services Workshop
  - Email to former Stakeholder Representative Group
  - County E-Newsletter
  - East MultCo Transportation Committee
  - City of Gresham Chamber of Commerce
  - Email to 22 EJ-related organizations
- **37 Applicants**

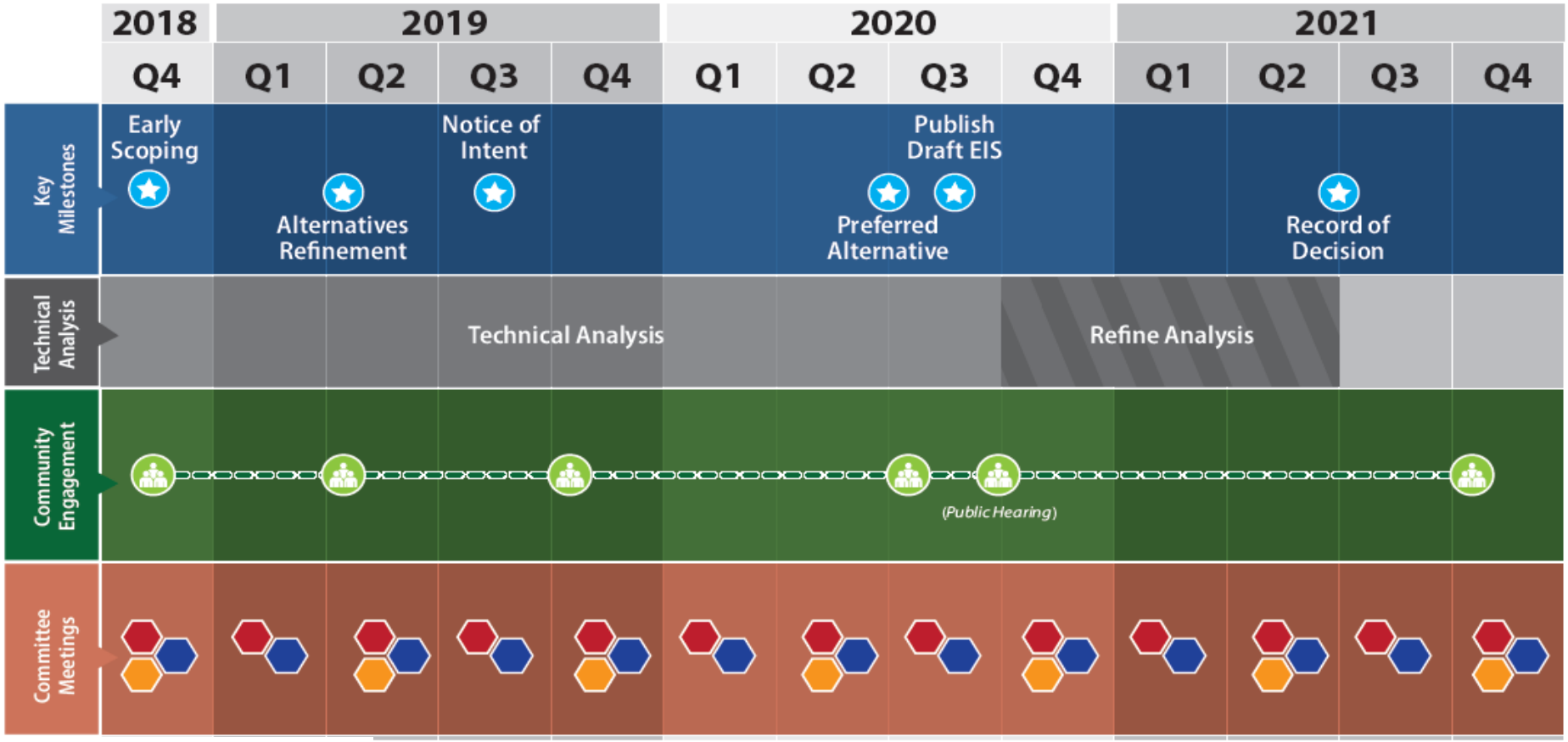
Outreach to Diverse Organizations

- **Community Engagement Liaisons Program**
- **Verde**
- **OPAL**
- **Latino Network**
- **Asian Health and Services Center**
- **Elders in Action**
- **MultCo Senior Advisory Council**
- **Coalition of Communities of Color**
- **Portland African American League Forum Urban League of Portland**
- **APANO**
- **VOZ**
- **NAYA**
- **IRCO**
- **Multnomah Youth Commission**
- **OAME**
- **NAMCO (National Association Minority Contractors of Oregon)**
- **Hispanic Chamber**
- **PBDG (Professional Business Development Group)**
- **Portland Commission on Disability**
- **Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)**
- **Northwest China Council**

3. Environmental Review Kickoff

EARTHQUAKE READY BURNSIDE BRIDGE

Project Overview and Milestones



4. Next Steps & Closing Remarks

Upcoming Activities

- October Committee Meetings
- Early Scoping Meeting with Cooperating/Participating Agencies – **October 15**
- Design Commission Briefing – **Oct 18**
- Board of County Commissioners Meeting – **November 1**