



# City of Portland Design Commission

## Design Advice Request

### SUMMARY MEMO

**Date:** June 1, 2019  
**To:** Dan Layden | PBOT  
**From:** Hannah Bryant, Design Review  
503.823.5353 | [Hannah.Bryant@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Hannah.Bryant@portlandoregon.gov)  
**Re:** EA 19-151675 DAR – Sullivan’s Gulch Bicycle & Pedestrian Bridge  
Design Advice Request Commission Summary Memo – May 23, 2019

Thank you for taking advantage of the opportunity to hold a Design Advice Request regarding your project. I hope you find it informative and valuable as you continue with your project development. Following, is a summary of the comments provided by the Design Commission at the May 23, 2019 Design Advice Request. This summary was generated from notes taken at the public meeting and a subsequent review of the public meeting recordings. To review those recordings, please visit: <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/11686822>.

These Design Commission comments are intended to guide you in further design exploration of your project. These comments may also inform City staff when giving guidance over the course of future related land use reviews. It should be understood that these comments address the project as presented on May 23, 2019. As the project design evolves, the comments, too, may evolve or may no longer be pertinent.

Design Advice Requests are not intended to substitute for other Code-required land use or legislative procedures.

*Encl:*  
Summary Memo

*Cc:* Design Commission  
Respondents

**Executive Summary.** *The Design Commission supports the structural expression of the bridge, its material/color, and the goals for placemaking art, seating and landscaping at both ends of the bridge. Further design development is recommended to achieve successful, identifiable places at both bridge ends, particularly the north side.*

**Commissioners Present.** Sam Rodriguez, Don Vallaster, Julie Livingston, Jessica Molinar, Brian McCarter. *Commissioners absent: Zari Santner, Andrew Clarke.*

**Summary of Comments.** Following is a general summary of Commission comments by design tenet.

## CONTEXT

1. **Green Loop.** As the first constructed part of the Green Loop, this bridge design should consider and express placemaking and wayfinding strategies that can be utilized throughout the loop. Landscape plantings, hardscape materials, seating, lighting and signage can all help to connect this element to the rest of the Green Loop.
2. **Neighborhood.** The bridge will serve as a gateway to both the Lloyd District and the Central Eastside. Its role as a gateway is not yet resolved. Current design on the north side is focused on efficient movement, and not pausing to take a rest. Further placemaking is needed to create habitable places that contribute to the neighborhood. (Guidelines A9 and A9-1 need more development.)
3. **Sullivan's Gulch Trail.** The Commission supported the design moves that allow a future Sullivan's Gulch Trail to connect to this bridge, but understand that this bridge is not part of that future Trail project.
4. **Viewpoints.** The Commission understands the limitations on the opening over the designated scenic viewpoint. Further design exploration may explore the form of the opening and opportunities for multiple openings.

## PUBLIC REALM

1. **Site organization.** The north side of the bridge is "all path and no place." Consider opportunities for pedestrians and bikes to stop on the north side out of the circulation path. More eddies, seating and congregating places are needed. It is not yet clear how bicycles and pedestrians move into and through this space without conflicts. Designing for the little kids on bikes, parents with bike trailers, strollers, etc., rather than the experienced bike commuters will ensure a place that works for all.
2. **Bicycle/Pedestrian Separation.** A rumble strip alone is not sufficient to keep the bicyclists and pedestrians separated, particularly at the north bridgehead. The Commission supports minimizing the use of bright green paint. Limiting its usage will highlight areas of particular importance. A large field of green paint may not identify areas of highest concern. Explore integral colored hardscape to differentiate the bicycle/pedestrian paths.

## QUALITY & PERMANENCE

1. **Exterior materials.** The light colored bridge structure, lit along the steel frame is supported. The Commission did not have a preference for the color of the light poles – either a light or dark color will meet Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines.
2. **Coherency.** The constraints of structure placement has resulted in a lovely form.

3. **Landscape.** Large areas of landscaping along NE Lloyd Boulevard must be driveable by emergency vehicles in case of a major seismic emergency. *Staff notes that grasses can provide a drought-tolerant, visually interesting buffer between pedestrians and traffic while being easy to drive over in case of a catastrophic emergency.*

#### Exhibit List

- A. Applicant's Submittals
  - 1.
- B. Zoning Map
- C. Drawings
  - 1.
- D. Notification
  1. Posting instructions sent to applicant
  2. Posting notice as sent to applicant
    1. Applicant's statement certifying posting
    2. General information on DAR process included with e-mailed posting/notice
- E. Service Bureau Comments
  - 1.
- F. Public Testimony
  - 1.
- G. Other
  1. Application form
  2. Staff memo to Design Commission, dated