



Design Advice Request

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: June 7, 2019
To: Portland Design Commission
From: Hannah Bryant, Design Review Team
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Re: EA 19-151665 – NW Flanders Bicycle / Pedestrian Bridge
Design Advice Request Memo – June 20, 2019

Attached is a drawing set for the Design Advice Request meeting scheduled on June 6, 2019. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Design Advice Request for a proposed new bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossing I-405 at NE Flanders Street, from NW 14th Avenue to NW 16th Avenue. The impervious area will discharge to the combined sewer located at NW 15th & NW Flanders. The bridge spans from the Pearl District to the Northwest District.

II. DEVELOPMENT TEAM BIO

Owner's Representative Nicole Pierce | PBOT
Project Valuation \$ 4,775,448

III. FUTURE DESIGN REVIEW APPROVAL CRITERIA: Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines (east half of the bridge) | Community Design Guidelines (west half of the bridge)

V. STAFF ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDED DAR DISCUSSION TOPICS

Staff advise you consider the following among your discussion items on June 20, 2019:

- Unique Gateway – Renderings highlight the views of the side of the bridge, as viewed from vehicles, but not the experience of bicyclists and pedestrian users of the bridge. The bridge sections do not yet demonstrate a unique and special view for its users. Bridges are physical and symbolic connectors, and present unique opportunities for placemaking. Further exploration of this as an attractive, exciting contributor to our Central City is recommended.
- Human Scale – While the 24' wide bridge needs to accommodate emergency vehicles if there is a catastrophic earthquake, it's primary function is to create a safe pedestrian crossing over the I-405 freeway that facilitates and encourages bicycle and pedestrian

travel. The design can facilitate possible emergency vehicle access while reflecting the human scale. Opportunities to enhance the pedestrian experience and create a qualitatively unique place include:

- Vertical separation between user groups (3" rolled curbs are recommended best practices and still mountable by emergency vehicles);
- viewpoints;
- Unique railings;
- Landscaping;
- Lighting;
- Seating.

CONTEXT

1. **Policy.** The following summarizes key policy context as it applies to the subject site.
 - a. **Bicycle Designations** – I-405 is the western edge of the Pearl Bicycle District. NW Flanders is a designated Major City Bikeway. NW 15th and NW 16th are both City Bikeways.
 - b. **Pedestrian Designations** – I-405 is the boundary between the Northwest Pedestrian District and the Northwest Triangle Pedestrian District (Pearl District). NW 15th and Flanders, including this future bridge, are designated City Walkways. NW 16th is a local service walkway.

QUALITY & PERMANENCE

1. **Exterior materials.** *Materials include a prefabricated steel truss frame with a 24' wide concrete deck.*