



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** September 10, 2019  
**To:** Portland Design Commission  
**From:** Arthur Graves, Land Use Services | 503.823.7803  
**Re:** Burnside Bridge: Earthquake Ready Briefing – September 19, 2019

The Burnside Bridge: Earthquake Readiness project previously came before the Portland Design Commission on October 18, 2018 (see summary below).

Primary issues to be addressed at this briefing include:

- The three bridge alternatives (the high fixed bridge option was eliminated)
- Urban Design impacts
- Draft Evaluation Criteria
- Bridge cross sections
- Traffic management approaches
- An update on the historic resources inventory

Note: Issues raised at the recent Portland Historic Landmarks Commission (PHLC) meeting on September 09, 2019 included:

- Question about process: At what point will the County be going through the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act? (It was commented that this would be started during the Draft EIS stage but that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would not be completed until the “preferred alternative” was selected).
- Concern that they, PHLC, be involved with the MOA because of interest in the mitigation that the project will require. Additionally noting that the proposed mitigation seemed premature and insufficient and that the Landmark Historic District (Skidomre / Old Town Historic District) is of primary concern.
- Concern for impacts to the two “Control Towers” with Option 1.
- Concern that the areas where the proposed bridge touches down be consistent with the Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines regarding pedestrian connections, etc.

As has been included previously, letters drafted by the PHLC on December 28, 2017 (addressing issues of the scope) and on October 31, 2018 (addressing issues with the proposed “Replacement: Fixed Bridge”) are included for your reference. Also attached is the complete Summary Memo from the October 18, 2018 meeting.

**Summary of previous Design Commission October 18, 2018 Briefing:**

Presentation focusing on updating the Commission on results and feedback from recent public outreach prior to the next steps (which is the NEPA process), and the November 01, 2018 vote by Multnomah County and the FHWA regarding:

- The bridge options to carry forward,
- The Purpose and Need of the bridge replacement, and
- The list of topics that need to be addressed by the project.

Note: The Burnside Bridge Earthquake Readiness project also previously came before the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission (PHLC) on September 11, 2017, June 25, 2018, October 08, 2018 and September 09, 2019.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.