



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

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Rebecca Esau, Director
Phone: (503) 823-7300
Fax: (503) 823-5630
TTY: (503) 823-6868
www.portlandoregon.gov/bds

Briefing

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: December 10, 2020
To: Portland Design Commission
From: Hillary Adam, Design / Historic Review Team
503-823-8953 | hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov
Re: Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge – Preferred Alternative Update
Briefing – December 17, 2020

Attached is a memo and presentation from Heather Catron, HDR, regarding the upcoming presentation to the Design Commission on the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project which is at the Preferred Alternative selection phase of the project. The project team last visited the Design Commission in July 2020. This presentation will provide a more in-depth discussion of the reasons why a long-span bridge is preferred and will present some examples of long-span bridge types. Those bridge types will be further discussed in Spring of next year prior to making a final selection of the bridge type to be designed.

Because the overall project – the proposed demolition of the existing Landmark Burnside Bridge and construction of a new bridge – requires coordination and permitting across multiple agencies across various levels of local, state, and federal government, the project team is eager to keep all stakeholders informed and actively engaged in the ongoing decision-making processes. As such, they have and will visit this commission multiple times prior to official land use processes either through Briefings such as this one or Design Advice Requests. Because the bridge will be constructed in both a Design overlay zone (over the river and on the east side of the Willamette) and within the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District (boundary at the sea wall), coordination will ultimately be required among the Landmarks and Design Commissions.

Looking forward toward the Bridge Type Selection process, it would be helpful if the Commission identified values that the project team should consider. These may include: bridge experience at the approach to Old Town and to the east side; visibility of the Portland Oregon sign; scale of above-deck bridge support structures; experience under the bridge at Waterfront Park and further west; experience of the bridge at the center of the river; contextual relationship with other bridges over the Willamette; symmetry or asymmetry; etc.

Please contact me with any questions.