



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

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Briefing

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: January 4, 2021
To: Patrick Sweeney, PBOT
Megan Neill, Multnomah County
From: Hillary Adam, Design / Historic Review Team
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Re: Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge – Preferred Alternative Update
Briefing – December 17, 2020

Below is the summary of comments from the December 7, 2020 Briefing with the Historic Landmarks Commission. The discussion presented the Preferred Alternative (Long Span) and why it is being forwarded as the preferred alternative and briefly touched on the different options that are under consideration for that preferred alternative, which will be discussed in greater depth in the near future.

Questions Asked:

- Commissioner Livingston asked why the UDAWG did not express a favorable opinion of the through truss bridge type.
- Commissioner Livingston asked if the views of the underside of the bridge are the same in each of the representations.
- Commissioner McCarter asked if anything proposed for the new bridge would limit the potential for burying I-5 on the east side in the future.
- Commissioner Livingston asked about the potential redevelopment of vacant parcels in the vicinity on both the west and east sides of the river.
- Commissioner Robinson asked if any of the other bridges in the City are seismically resilient.
- Commissioner McCarter asked if the middle section is severable so that it could remain with new approaches added on the west and east. He requested that the project team follow-up with a response to that question. Commissioner Livingston suggested that at the January DEIS Briefing, the project team start their presentation with this question and explain how much investigative work has been done on retention of the existing bridge and why this isn't being pursued.

Comments Provided:

- Commissioner McCarter noted that with through truss bridges, oblique views are impeded by the thickness of the structure that almost results in an opaque visual. He noted a pedestrian bridge by Calatrava bridge but didn't think it could translate at this scale.
- Commissioner McCarter noted that it would be nice to hear how Portland Parks and Recreation would like to use the underside of the bridge if it were clear of columns. He also noted that potentially, the median and columns in the median on Naito could be eliminated. He also noted that there could be a higher and better use for the surface parking lot under the

bridge. Perhaps a raised speed table under the bridge could create a safer crossing between Old Town and the Park.

- Commissioner Santner noted that comments to the project team at prior visits suggested that any future design should ensure that options for burying I-5 on the east side should remain viable.
- Commissioner McCarter noted that other places in the world make use of the undersides of bridges as opportunities for retail spaces and it would be neat if that was something we could also consider.
- Commissioner Santner noted that the County has jurisdiction of the bridge and under the bridge and there are policies that allow for maintenance requirements, etc. She said that hopefully these issues would be addressed during the design phases, in conjunction with Portland Parks and Recreation to ensure that there is value added to the undersides of the bridge.
- Commissioner Santner noted the presence of the historic pump station next to the bridge and that there are a lot of complications, such as utilities, in the area that should be considered during the design phases.

Public comments were received both orally and in writing from John Czarnecki. These comments were in support of the Enhanced Seismic Retrofit option and highlighted the bridge's position in the city and its connection to other historic spaces and places, generally along Burnside. These comments were forwarded to the project team. Commissioners appreciated and referenced these comments in some of their comments.

Files related to this Briefing can be found here: <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/14160290>.

Please contact me with any questions.