



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

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Briefing

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: May 31, 2024
To: Portland Historic Landmarks Commission
Portland Design Commission
From: Tim Heron, Design / Historic Review Team
503-823-7726, tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov
Re: Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge – Project Status and Upcoming Engagement,
Briefing June 10, 2024

Attached is a memo and presentation from Megan Neill, Multnomah County – Project Manager, regarding the upcoming presentation to the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Design Commission on the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge. 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 both the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Design Commission.

Because 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.

The project team last visited the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Design Commission on **March 4, 2021, as a Joint Design Advice Request** [EA 21-007324 DA]. Those DAR Summary Notes are attached, as well as [linked here with the Zoom webinar recording](#).

This Informational Briefing will update the Commissions on the project schedule, next steps and the design decisions to date such as:

- A bascule lift type has been selected and on the west side the bridge will be constructed using girders. Similar to the current bridge, this form does not have any structure supporting the bridge from above. Thus, it will ensure views of downtown from the east remain unobstructed. This is consistent with the direction from the Commissions in earlier meetings in 2020 and 2021.
- For the east side of the bridge, there are several bridge type design options under consideration. The project will be launching a public engagement process in July to get feedback on these options and would like to share a preview with the Commissions.

Please contact me with any questions.

Att:

- [3-4-21 EA 21-007324 DA - EA 21-007685 DA - SUMMARY MEMO and Zoom Webinar Recording](#)
- [5-22-24 Multnomah County Cover Memo](#)
- [6-10-24 Multnomah County PPT Presentation for joint Briefing](#)