



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 28, 2018
To: Portland Historic Landmarks Commission
From: Arthur Graves, Land Use Services | 503.823.7803
Re: Burnside Bridge: Earthquake Ready Briefing – October 08, 2018

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

Attached is the letter drafted by the PHLC on December 28, 2017 conveying issues of concern regarding the project scope. Chief concerns mentioned in the letter include:

- Alternatives are being moved forward without consideration to adverse impacts to historic fabric.
- Proposed alternatives do not consider impacts to buildings adjacent to the Burnside Bridge; the west side of the bridge terminates in the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District and several contributing resources front on West Burnside.
- Substantial work is being done to the bridge but none of the routes leading up to the bridge are being upgraded.
- Project scope to date has not included identifying the historic elements of the Burnside Bridge that should be retained if at all possible.

The June 25, 2018 briefing presented process information and four “screening options” (Enhanced Seismic Retrofit, Low Movable, 97’ High Fixed, and East Couch Couplet) to be carried forward. These raised questions from the Commission regarding primarily the bridge designs, alignments, and continued process moving forward (Memorandum attached).

The Burnside Bridge: Earthquake Readiness project is here today to update 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.

Issues of concern include:

- Impact to the landmark structure.
- The approach to the proposed new bridge resulting in secondary impacts to adjacent buildings and Historic Districts.
- Proposed four bridge options moving forward in the NEPA process.
- That topics addressing the historic aspects of the bridge and adjacent buildings and Historic District are well represented in the NEPA process.

Note: The Burnside Bridge: Earthquake Readiness project will provide their first briefing to the Design Commission on October 18, 2018.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.