

**From:** [Sue Sandford](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Ted](#); [Mapps, Mingus](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Hardesty, Jo Ann](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [mult.chair@multco.us](#); [district1@multco.us](#); [district2@multco.us](#); [district3@multco.us](#); [district4@multco.us](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Willie@humanaccessproject.com](#)  
**Subject:** Burnside Bridge Improvements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 7:51:33 AM

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I am happy to learn of the planned seismic improvements to the Burnside Bridge. It's a big investment and a worthy one. I'm also very happy to hear that an additional cost analysis for Eastside Esplanade improvements connecting to the upgraded bridge is underway, as a first step to including more access to the river. It's vital that we protect and enhance the esplanade. The timing and available funding for bridge improvements makes the esplanade improvements a good opportunity on many levels. I appreciate the support from local government for greater river access and urge you to continue its implementation.

Gratefully,  
Sue Sandford

**From:** [Peter Kokopeli](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Ted](#); [Mapps, Mingus](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Hardesty, Jo Ann](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [mult.chair@multco.us](#); [district1@multco.us](#); [district2@multco.us](#); [district3@multco.us](#); [district4@multco.us](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Burnside Bridge replacement  
**Date:** Sunday, November 28, 2021 4:14:45 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the design of the Burnside Bridge replacement to support protected access for pedestrians and cyclists not only to the bridge itself but also related streets, parks and paths.

In particular, I support the east side esplanade and improvements proposed by the Human Access Project. Their design concept addresses accessibility issues and an approach to dealing with flooding and habitat restoration as well.

Thank you,

Peter Kokopeli  
6677 SE Yamhill St.  
Portland, OR 97215

**From:** [John Ostrander](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** City Council 12/16 - Burnside Bridge - Item 912  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 3:06:35 PM

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Dear City Council:

Thank you for your continued service. It is appreciated.

I am writing in favor of the creation of a new Burnside Bridge water edge park. You have the fortunate opportunity to make a bold lasting mark for Portland (and for yourselves) by taking steps to transform the river's edge and Portland. This is big. Years later, people will look back at your doing so with great appreciation and admiration. It is an "Oswald West preservation of Oregon beaches" moment. Although it isn't directly on point, I believe the following quotation best encapsulates this choice: "Because in the end, you won't remember the time you spent working in the office or mowing your lawn. Climb that goddamn mountain." Jack Kerouac, *Dharma Bums*. To that end, the quotidian detail of your work will be long forgotten, but the bold transformational changes will be heralded.

Thank you,

John D. Ostrander  
1622 SE 71<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Portland Oregon 97215  
Work Phone: 503/224-7656  
Home Phone: 503/313-8027  
Email: [john@eoplaw.com](mailto:john@eoplaw.com)

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**From:** [LaJune Thorson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** City Council meeting regarding Burnside Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 4:42:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [written testimony to City Council re Burnside Bridge design.docx](#)

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Please see attached, my written testimony regarding handicapped accessibility.

## Regarding the Burnside Bridge design

I am LaJune Thorson, long-time resident of downtown at 255 SW Harrison Street.

In order to make the new Burnside Bridge accessible, I advocate providing a ramp to get onto the bridge as opposed to an elevator. A ramp is more reliable since elevators require regular maintenance and can break down.

However, I have two concerns regarding a ramp which I hope you can solve:

The Bridge design must be aesthetically pleasing even though this ramp would necessarily be very long. The current Burnside Bridge is iconic, historically important, and beautiful. The new bridge probably cannot live up to its predecessor, but I hope a ramp can be well integrated into the new design.

My second concern regarding a ramp is that e-scooters and bicycles not become a safety hazard to vulnerable people using walkers, canes, or wheelchairs or those, such as myself, whose balance is not as good as it used to be. I don't know how to disallow wheeled vehicles on a ramp; posting signs doesn't seem to work. I hope you can design some safeguards keeping everyone as safe as possible.

**From:** [Roy Lambert](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10:52:18 AM

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Dear City Council Members -

I'm writing to express my support for including ready access to the Willamette River, and Eastside improvements to the esplanade, in the proposed Burnside Bridge project. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to maximize the benefit the river can provide for Portland residents. Please do not let this opportunity elude you.

Roy

Roy Lambert  
[rdl.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:rdl.lambert@gmail.com)  
503-777-9572 (Oregon land line)  
503-505-1185 (iPhone)

**From:** [Ari D](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10:52:48 AM

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I'm writing in support of improving the esplanade to increase public access to the Willamette River in downtown areas. As a swimmer and canoer in the downtown Willamette, I am proud of what my city has to offer in terms of water recreation. I think we can continue to improve upon this! Public river access is a huge source of joy for me and I want others in the city to be able to share that as well. The Burnside Bridge construction is a great opportunity that we should leverage to the greatest benefit of all.

Sincerely,  
Ari DeMarco

**From:** [Matthew Nenninger](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10:57:32 AM

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Hello,

I'm writing to urge the City to seriously consider making valuable improvements to the Eastbank Esplanade during the Burnside Bridge replacement. Creating more places for people to access and interact with the Willamette River not only provides recreational opportunities, but also helps create a sense of connection to the River, and therefore a sense of stewardship and care for the River. With a little added foresight and funding, the City has the chance to make our Riverfront (on both sides of the River) an asset that will be the envy of cities across the country and beyond. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to make these improvements while the Esplanade is closed for bridge construction anyway.

Matthew Nenninger  
Foster-Powell Resident and Rental Property Owner

[matt.nenninger@gmail.com](mailto:matt.nenninger@gmail.com)

503-805-7145



**From:** [Tracie and Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:02:03 AM

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Hello,

I'm writing to urge the City to seriously consider making valuable improvements to the Eastbank Esplanade during the Burnside Bridge replacement. Creating more places for people to access and interact with the Willamette River not only provides recreational opportunities, but also helps create a sense of connection to the River, and therefore a sense of stewardship and care for the River. With a little added foresight and funding, the City has the chance to make our Riverfront (on both sides of the River) an asset that will be the envy of cities across the country and beyond. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to make these improvements while the Esplanade is closed for bridge construction anyway.

Tracie Andrews  
Foster-Powell Resident and Rental Property Owner  
[tracematt@gmail.com](mailto:tracematt@gmail.com)

**From:** [MA Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:03:17 AM

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To Who It May Concern,

Please, please, please consider the "human" use of the Willamette River as a part of the Biurnside Bridge Investment. The river is an important amenity for Portland but ONLY IF it becomes/remains accessible by ALL Portlandresidents, not the just wealthy few who own a boat.

Thank you.

**From:** [Diana Eff](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:05:22 AM

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For a \$Billion, let's not be satisfied with infrastructure alone. This is our chance to make it a beautiful and useful asset to the people of Portland and our visitors.

Let's show EVERYONE that we still care about and love our city! And our River!!

Diana Eff  
NE Portland  
River Hugger Lover

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Susan](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Friends of RiverPlace supports this project! Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment. (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:19:37 AM

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Hello PDX Commissioners & Staff

Friends of RiverPlace volunteers are 100% in support of your Willamette River improvements capitalizing on our naturally wonderful river.

Let bring more citizens downtown to our riverfront. PDX will be safer and healthier with this new plan.

Friends of RiverPlace has volunteered thousands of hours working with the city to maximize livability downtown on our mighty Willamette. We thank City Hall for Poet's Beach and other wonderful visionary river improvements & ideas. Let's keep it up & work with HAP for a better city.

Go for it!!

Susan West  
Friends of RiverPlace  
[FriendsofRiverPlace@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofRiverPlace@gmail.com)  
503.780.4645

**From:** [Andrew Hull](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:46:07 AM

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To whom it may concern:

Please consider how the city's two major thoroughfares--the river and Burnside--can be better connected for people to enjoy. Continuing to add to the recreation infrastructure in the core of the city adds to the health of citizens, creates opportunities for central businesses, and enhances the profile and reputation of the city.

As a biker, the pathway from Steel Bridge to the Burnside corridor is difficult to navigate and ultimately dangerous with the MLK bridge. Not to mention the bike path on the Steel Bridge is obviously very tight for bike & pedestrian traffic. We need to plan for a city and create the conditions where bike trips are a significantly higher portion of travel, if we have any hopes of hitting our 2030 and 2050 carbon targets.

This enhancement to the plan should be a no brainer in terms of what it gains Portland and its citizens.

**Andrew Hull**

**From:** [Sara Bethell](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:55:36 AM

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The Willamette River is the heart of Portland. Every citizen deserves access. Now's the time to improve our esplanade to provide better river access for a variety of activities, while the esplanade is closed for bridge construction.

Sara Bethell

**From:** [Laurie Harquail](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 12:13:07 PM

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Hello!

When thinking about the investment in the Burnside Bridge, please consider thinking beyond purely utilitarian improvements.

Please take this opportunity to think bigger, and improve access to the Willamette River, and seriously consider the river's importance in contributing to and elevating the livability of this city.

Now's the time!

Thank you.

— Laurie Harquail

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Laurie Harquail  
[lcharquail@comcast.net](mailto:lcharquail@comcast.net)  
Ph: 503.880.6464

QUAIL Communications  
<https://quailcommunicationspdx.com>

**From:** [Elisabeth Siebenmorgen](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 12:24:45 PM

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Please put PEOPLE FIRST. Let all enjoy our river and waterfront.  
Betty

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Kelly Stack](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [willie@humanaccessproject.com](mailto:willie@humanaccessproject.com)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:18:13 PM

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As a Portland home-owner who plans to retire to the city within the next few years, I would like to encourage Portland to include improvements to Willamette River access in the plans for refurbishing the Burnside Bridge. I look forward to swimming in the river when we move back to Portland, and want to make that dream a reality for myself and other Portlanders.

Thank you!

Best,

Kelly Stack  
owner, 1041 NE 112th Ave., Portland, 97220  
current residence: 564 Mar Vista Dr., Monterey, CA 93940

**From:** [Hedin, Svetlana](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Item 912  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:45:44 PM

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Good day,

I would like to submit my written testimony for Thursday 12/16 at 2pm, item 912.

Portlanders love their Willamette River where they finally can swim and recreate in the summer time. There are events happenings near the river and in the river yearly; The Big Float, The Jazz festival, Christmas Boat Lights, Summer swims and many others.

Wouldn't it be nice to jump at the opportunity to do something right that will benefit people of all abilities and provide access to the river? I am talking about the opportunity that we currently have to improve the Burnside bridge and make it an amenity that people will enjoy. I know that money is a big thing, but sometimes it's better to spend a little more to make not just a good project but a GREAT one! I would really like to see our beloved Burnside Bridge and Esplanade rejuvenate and provide as many amenities for people to enjoy our Willamette River. The City is always looking for community inputs on projects. Well you already have a great non-profit, Human Access Project, that has been working on ideas to improve Esplanade and accessibility to the River. These are folks that are mostly volunteers that are invested in providing recreation to people with all physical ability. Why not listen to them? They think about the River every day, they partner with lots of organizations, schools to make our River more beautiful. This is the best chance we have to make an amazing project and do it right.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Svetlana Hedin (Human Access Project board member)

**From:** [Janc988](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Item 912 for City Council meeting on Dec. 16, 2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:28:20 PM

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Thank you Mayor and City Council Commissioners. My name is Jan Campbell, I am a person living with a disability and use a motorized wheelchair. I worked, for years, for the City of Portland as Coordinator of the Disability Project. I am sending you my comments in writing, just in case I am unable to testify. Some of you know me and actually have advocated along with me in protecting the rights of persons living with disabilities. I have been an advocate for a long time because when I first became disabled, there was no access for persons living with a disability. I was totally dependent on others and never had the opportunity to participate in so many areas. That is still true today for many. I was denied a teaching job because of my disability. My family and I have made this a lifetime passion. My family has all passed, but I will continue working on issues that are accessible and equitable. I want you to know why it is so important for everyone to access the Willamette River downtown and enjoy it. Design is more than what is required by code. It needs to be more than just functional. Design needs to be equitable. In saying this, I feel with this project a ramp down to the river would be more equitable than an elevator. If both could be funded, that would be great. However, as I understand, this is not feasible at this time. I was working for the City when an elevator was installed on the eastside for access to the River. At that time, some of our concerns were told they would be met, but they were never really implemented. The two reasons I feel that eventually led to the shut down, was because it was very difficult to maintain, so it wasn't in working order a lot of the time, and people did not feel safe using it. A ramp, if designed properly and having persons with disabilities involved in the design, would show us that we are part of the City and County's agenda. Please don't put us in an enclosed space where we may not feel safe. including getting stuck in it, that probably will be difficult to maintain because of funding. availability of parts and/or keeping it clean. These will be the same reasons today, if we install one. Some of us have had meetings with the City and County expressing our concerns and that is exactly what we are hearing. We want everyone to be able to use the ramp at all times of the day like everyone else, we want to enjoy the river when we want. Disability is part of the human condition. We can no longer be disadvantaged in accessing our rivers. That is why I am a member and so thankful for the Human Access Project. They get it. Design must be looked at in a different way. That being universal design and equitable.

Thank you for your time and feel free to contact me.

Jan Campbell

janc988@aol.com  
503-504-1254

**From:** [Shelly Rettell](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep access to the Willamette during construction!  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:18:04 PM

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Dear City of Portland,

Access to the Willamette River has been a wonderful way to enjoy this great city, especially during the pandemic! I swim 2 -3 times a week with the river huggers from June - September in the morning and love the exercise, the camaraderie, watching the sun rise, watching folks bike and walk across the bridge for work. It has made me feel more at home in the great city!

My teenaged daughter and her friends use the docks to meet and swim and sun bath. It is a safe place to spend time in the city, it's easy to get to and to access. She was part of the water polo team that practiced here and is a good place to "hang out."

Better access to the river during the construction of the Burnside Bridge (and after!) is really important to our family. We love living in Portland and the Willamette River is an important part of why we love it. With a billion dollar bridge, the opportunities to include folks who want to enjoy the river seems like a no brainer - just do it!

Thank you,  
Shelly

*Shelly Rettell*  
[shelly.rettell@gmail.com](mailto:shelly.rettell@gmail.com)

**From:** [Gretchan Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:27:12 PM

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I care about the Willamette River and access to the water.

As a regular River swimmer, now is the time to improve how we access and enjoy our beautiful waterway. Let's get going and share its beauty with every citizen and visitor.

Thank you for this consideration. We can make Portland better together for all.

Gretchan Jackson  
Montavilla, PDX

**From:** [Carey Booth](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:40:10 PM

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Hi,

I love floating in the Willamette River just off of Audrey McCall beach.

I also use the access at Sellwood Park for my kayak.

I swim at the Kevin Duckworth Memorial Dock and really appreciate the ladders.

The more people there are that use the river, the more they will care about keeping it clean.

Please give more access to the river with the Burnside Bridge project.

Thanks,

Carey Booth

1628 SE Salmon St

Portland, OR 97214

**From:** [Christina M](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Burnside retrofit  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:53:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-1491067619.png](#)

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Regarding the changes to the Burnside Bridge:

I wanted to express my heartfelt hope that while the waterfront is closed due to the retrofitting of the bridge, efforts are made to design and improved better citizen access to the river for swimming. I swim regularly in the Willamette with the Human Access Project River Huggers and see the river as a treasure that could be a world class draw to Portland. Let's improve and expand the East side Esplanade while this project is being done!

thank you for considering my thoughts,  
Christina Malango





**From:** [Kara Colley](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 4:12:27 PM

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Hi,

If you rebuild the Burnside bridge, please rebuild it in a way that puts human access to the water front and center. I love my river and I want to enjoy it.

Thanks,  
-Kara Colley

**From:** [Nicole Cousino](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 5:00:23 PM

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Hello,

Portland loves being at the forefront of brilliant urban solutions. Here's an opportunity to maintain that national reputation through smart planning with the Burnside Bridge replacement project. Lets connect Portlanders to the river, lets increase access for all, and let build a monument of this connection through stimulating, inspiring design. Seize the opportunity to do something memorable. Lets build a beautiful ramp and tiered seating at the water's edge. Lets have habitat intertwine with Portlanders moments at the river. Lets have stunning new designs that evoke the stature of the city and elevate it at the national/international level.

With hopes of smart design for Portland,

Nicole Cousino  
Montavilla

**From:** [lynn ingraham](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 5:40:32 PM

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Dear Portland,

I have been voting in portland for over 20 years. I am so proud of our community. Let's continue to be a leader in humanity. I believe that human access to nature is essential to cultivating positive human culture. This is a unique time to nurture our Portland culture with human access to the Willamette River. Let's move forward with HAP and the Burnside Bridge project. Let's keep Portland vibrant.

Cent from my eyeFone

**From:** [Paxton Rothwell](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:34:15 PM

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Councilmembers,

I encourage you to use this once in a century opportunity to replace the Burnside Bridge as an opportunity to meaningfully connect access to the Willamette River to the Eastbank Esplanade.

Currently there is no reasonable way to access the Burnside Bridge from the Esplanade via bike or wheelchair. There currently is a steep and dicey set of stairs that lead to the bridge, enticing no one to visit the otherwise beautiful east side riverfront.

Multnomah County is proposing an elevator to connect the new bridge to the Esplanade. From my experience with public elevators in Portland, they are often in degraded condition or down for servicing. The elevator at the Gibbs Pedestrian bridge used to be my lifeline on my bike ride to work, but I found it unreliable. I fear that another public elevator would have the same result, so I believe a ramp is a better option.

When the Burnside bridge is replaced, the Eastbank Esplanade will need to be closed for over a year and a half. This will give the City the perfect moment to connect the Esplanade to the river. The Human Access Project has proposed a beautiful plan that will connect the Esplanade to the river via a ramp and a few sets of stairs. Many other major cities around the world cherish their connection to the water that brings life into the region, Portland should be no different.

I ask that Portland push to build the Burnside bridge ramp, connect the Esplanade to the river, and build sound walls alongside I-5 along this re-worked portion of the Esplanade (ideally along the whole length). This will set Portland up to become an even more livable and beautiful place to live and will shine as a bright choice of how to spend public funds.

Plus, if my dream world ever materialises, once I-5 is removed from the eastside of the Willamette, this completed project will be a gateway funnel for prime development in the central eastside between Burnside and Stark Streets. "Walk to the River" the ads will say. It'd be beautiful.

Thank you for your time today.

A better world takes hard work,

Paxton Rothwell

cell [\(909\) 456-6044](tel:9094566044)

email [pmhrothwell@gmail.com](mailto:pmhrothwell@gmail.com)

**From:** [Sue Sandford](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:38:04 PM

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Now is the time to open up Portland's city center, creating renewed access for everyone and establishing a permanent link to the Willamette River and both sides of the esplanade. Right now we have the time and access to funding to make it happen. The river enhancements over the past few decades have been gratifying. Let's continue to make that difference for our city.

Gratefully,  
Sue Sandford

**From:** [Andrea Milano](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support for item 912 - river access  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:59:19 PM

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Hello Councilors, I am writing to let you know how much it means to me to have access to the Willamette river at multiple points along its bank. Even more importantly is for people of all abilities to have access to its banks. It seems that the opportunity presented by the Burnside Bridge project to re-imagine the east bank as a place for all to recreate is one not to be missed or squandered. Please consider the significant community impact that rides on your decisions.

Thank you for your work and dedication, Andrea

**From:** [CASEY SUNDERMANN](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:47:54 AM

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Make sure Portlanders can have access to the river and the esplanade. Money is one thing, but livability is crucial. Our city is suffering right now. We need to make infrastructure work for all of us to walk, run, bike and swim and enjoy the river.

Casey Sundermann  
5847 NE 31st  
Portland, OR 97211  
971-319-6558

**From:** [André Lightsey-Walker](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony - City Council Agenda Item 912  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 9:10:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [Burnside Bridge \(Written Testimony Final\).pdf](#)

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Greetings,

Attached you'll find written testimony regarding agenda item 912.

Thank you,

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**André Lightsey-Walker** (he/him)  
**Policy Transformation Manager, The Street Trust**  
618 NW Glisan St., #203, Portland, OR 97209  
[www.thestreettrust.org](http://www.thestreettrust.org) | Cell: (503) 307-5262

**Save the date! The [2022 Summit](#) is April 25-27**  
RFP is open! [Submit a proposal](#)







December, 14th 2021

To: Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner Dan Ryan  
Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Re: Intergovernmental Agreement with Multnomah County for the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project

Dear Portland City Council Members,

The Street Trust shares your concern for equipping Portland with the resilient, low-carbon infrastructure to allow continued transportation as we prepare for the anticipated large-scale earthquake. We are excited that the Burnside Bridge Replacement Project currently proposes improvements for people walking, biking, rolling, and riding transit. We are a very strong proponent of the eastbound dedicated right-of-way offered to transit but encourage a design that provides a dedicated lane for transit in both directions.

We recognize that resources are limited and support innovation as a result. The Street Trust would like to commend the design proposal of a dual-directional roadway where traffic direction can be adjusted based on demand. We recognize it's often scary to propose things with no local precedence but we believe this is critical to our growth and a truly transformative future.

In regards to bridge access, The Street Trust recommends Multnomah County abandon the idea of an elevator and focus its energy on the creation of a viable, accessible ramp design. We believe that the human experience benefits of developing a ramp design significantly outweigh the money-saving benefit of an elevator. We also agree with our friends at Human Access Project that the project should take a holistic approach by directing some funds into improving connections and access to one of our region's most significant treasures, the Willamette River.

The Burnside Bridge was originally built in 1924. Taking this into consideration I challenge this council to be both critical and visionary about the 100-year investment we're making and ensure that before we decide on our final design we exercise our imagination and consider the transportation and climate conditions of our bridge-crossers a century from now. Portland has historically been a global leader in making climate-smart and active transportation investments.

**618 NW Glisan St #203 ♦ Portland, OR 97209**

**(503) 226-0676 ♦ [www.thestreettrust.org](http://www.thestreettrust.org)**

Every major infrastructure project undertaken here is an opportunity to either reinforce or destroy that reputation. Transportation is about behavior change: we must be brave enough to push against the status quo by expressing our commitment to not only providing the space for active transportation and transit but ensuring that the facilities we provide are premiere quality and positively reinforce someone's decision to walk, roll, or ride, possibly on low-carbon vehicles we haven't even yet imagined. We must take a human-centered approach from start to finish.

We must ensure that our final project anticipates the needs of our community beyond its completion date.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



André Lightsey-Walker

Policy Transformation Manager, The Street Trust

[andre@thestreettrust.org](mailto:andre@thestreettrust.org)

**From:** [Kevin Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for improvements to Eastbank Esplanade park as part of Burnside Bridge project  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:41:19 AM

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Writing in support of the idea proposed by Human Access Project to enhance the Eastbank Esplanade and create better access to the Willamette River as part of the billion dollar public investment to replace the Burnside Bridge in downtown Portland.

Just as the bridge replacement will serve as a critical piece of infrastructure to connect the City, safe and accessible connections to the downtown riverfront for all Portlanders to enjoy are just as important. Now is the time for the City to think bigger and leverage the public investment being committed to the Burnside Bridge project.

Thanks,  
Kevin Hughes  
2817 NE 8th Ave  
Portland, OR 97212

**From:** [Mark Swinth](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Let's Leverage our Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 3:08:14 PM

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As a regular swimmer in the Willamette I often marvel at how this enormous resource in the center of our city is so lightly used. Its combination of clean, not-too-cold, and slow-moving water makes for essentially a multi-acre park, a short walk or bike ride away, for most city residents. And its free!

Anything we can do as a city to enable better access is a win-win-win (for exercise, for equity, for carbon savings). At a minimum we should make sure the Burnside project does not in any way reduce or hamper access, and in the long-run enhances it!

Many thanks,  
Mark

--

Mark Swinth  
503-970-0589

**From:** [Mark H Linehan](#)  
**To:** [Clerk General](#)  
**Subject:** Human Access Project at new Burnside Bridge  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 7:16:46 AM

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As a Portland resident and a bicyclist, I support the Human Access Project concept for a ramp connection from the Eastside Esplanade to the future replacement Burnside Bridge. A ramp will be more useful and more reliable than elevators, and the proposed park and improved river access will be a significant upgrade to the always-popular Esplanade.

I urge the City Council to support engineering and financial analysis of the Human Access Project proposal.

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Mark H Linehan  
2031 SE Harrison St

**From:** [Heather Kent](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Burnside Bridge opportunity  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 8:09:26 AM

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Dear City Commissioners,

Our investment in the Burnside Bridge requires innovative thinking and looking to the future. Please take this once-in-a-lifetime (probably more!) to make sure investments not only make the bridge safe and secure but also enhance river access and habitat along the riverfront in the footprint of the construction. The multiple benefits of a thoughtful approach will pay dividends for Portlanders for generations to come.

thank you,

--

Heather Nelson Kent  
NE Portland  
503-860-6145

**From:** [David Kirchmeir](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Burnside Bridge upgrade.  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 8:49:46 AM

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Hello,

I'm writing to ask that whatever design is arrived at for the new Burnside Bridge, please include access to the esplanade and the river itself. As the planet grows hotter everyone should be able to go for a swim on a hot summer's day. Please assure that the bridge makes human access to the river a priority. Also, bike paths, please.

Thank you very much,  
David Kirchmeir  
5827 NE 31st Ave, 97211  
503.752.4155

**From:** [Maggie Starr](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Willie Levenson](#)  
**Subject:** Council Item 912: Get more out of the Burnside Bridge Investment (Council Item 912)  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 12:11:57 PM

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Dear Members of City Council,

Please accept this testimony on Council Item 912: Burnside Bridge Improvements:

The Burnside Bridge improvements project is a huge opportunity not only to shore up our transportation infrastructure, but to make a large and much-needed change in how our community accesses and enjoys the Willamette River downtown. Please be bold, and leverage this unique opportunity to improve both the Bridge and river access -- our city may not see another such opportunity.

A few years ago, my downtown workplace hosted a team from Hawaii, and I took the group out to the center of the Burnside Bridge for them to get a good view of the Willamette. They were thrilled, coming from a state with only a handful of navigable rivers, and wanted to get closer to the water. But we were pressed for time on our lunch break, and while the river was *right there*, we faced a confusing ten minute walk in either direction to get to it.

This was all too representative our community's relationship with the Willamette -- motivated river users can and do access it, but to most of the community, it's just far-off scenery. This is something that the Burnside Bridge Project has the potential to change as our City strives to be greener, more connected, and more equitable. Now is the time to improve our esplanade to provide better access to this amazing river, one that has been cleaned up and cared for so much just in the last few decades.

I have lived on the East side of Portland for sixteen years, and the stretch of the Willamette River through downtown Portland has always been an important part of my life in the city and connection to this place. I have gone regularly by bus, bicycle, foot and car over the Willamette as I've gone back and forth downtown for work and play, and I've swum across the river as a member of the Human Access Project's River Hugger Swim Team. I wish greater river access for all Portlanders and visitors to our city, and I urge city council to use this opportunity to make it happen.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Starr  
Lents



**City Council Meeting - Thursday, December 16, 2021 2:00 p.m.**

| <b>Agenda No.</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Zip Code</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 912.1             | Willie            | Levenson         | 97205           |
| 912.2             | Sam               | Drevo            | 97202           |
| 912.3             | Tom               | Vandel           | 97213           |
| 912.4             | Susan             | Bladholm         | 97225           |
| 912.5             | Simon             | Walsh            | 97221           |
| 912.6             | Thomas (Tad)      | McCall           | 22205           |
| 912.7             | Austen            | Knight           | 97045           |
| 912.8             | Ashton            | Simpson          | 97227           |
| 912.9             | Mike              | Faha             | 9721            |
| 912.10            | Adam              | Zucker           | 97214           |
| 912.11            | Jane-Clair        | Kerin            | 97219           |
| 912.12            | Sonia             | Montalbano       | 97213           |
| 912.13            | Mark              | Zahner           | 97202           |
| 912.14            | Joe               | Cadwell          | 97215           |
| 912.15            | Aaron             | Kuehn            | 97202           |
| 912.16            | Kiel              | Johnson          | 97218           |
| 912.17            | Jan               | Campbell         | 97201           |
| 912.18            | Christina         | MALANGO          | 97206           |
| 912.19            | Crystal           | Granger          | 97242           |
| 912.20            | Tom               | Stenson          | 97205           |
| 912.21            | Sadie             | Walsh            | 97221           |