

City of Portland Design Commission Briefing

Date: Thursday, August 1st, 2024
To: City of Portland Landmarks Commission **From:** Megan Neill, PE, Design Phase Project Manager, Multnomah County
Cc: Tim Heron, Senior City Planner
Subject: Briefing on the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project
Attachments/Enclosures: Draft Presentation

As discussed at the June 10, 2024 Briefing, since 2016, Multnomah County has been working to create an Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge. The proposed project would replace the existing Burnside Bridge with a new movable bridge in approximately the same location and length as the existing bridge. The project area is shown in Figure 1 below.

Project benefits include:

- The Project will build the first seismically resilient vehicular crossing in downtown Portland that will be immediately usable after a major earthquake.
- The new Burnside Bridge will support emergency relief efforts, reunite families, connect people to critical services, and serve an instrumental role in a faster, more efficient economic recovery for the region and state.
- The new bridge will have 17-foot-wide bicycle and pedestrian paths on each side of the bridge. Crash-worthy barriers separating motorized vehicles from active transportation users will significantly increase safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities. Improved active transportation and transit options will support a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.
- The Project will improve transit facilities, including upgrades to nearby bus stops and the retention of the eastbound bus-only lane. The new bridge will also be built to accommodate a future Portland Streetcar line.
- The project will add new or improved ADA-compliant sidewalks that connect to nearby transit facilities, creating safer, more comfortable access for people with disabilities.
- Before construction begins, the Project will make permanent improvements to bicycle and pedestrian paths along detour routes.

The purpose of the August 15th Briefing is to provide an architectural evaluation of the East Approach structure types currently under consideration and share the results of the public engagement process and survey conducted throughout July 2024.

Figure 1: Project Area

