

Multnomah County's First Seismically Resilient Downtown Bridge



Right now, none of downtown Portland's Willamette River vehicular bridges will be immediately usable after a major earthquake. Multnomah County is leading an effort to replace the current Burnside Bridge with one that can withstand a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. It's one of the largest earthquake resilience projects in Oregon.

Located on a regionally established lifeline route, it's critical that the bridge is still standing after a major earthquake, as it will be used by first responders to get to those in need. It will be a beacon for safety, emergency response and recovery. The new bridge will also provide safer, more accessible multimodal transportation facilities in the heart of Portland, serving the community for the next 100+ years.





Background

The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project began in 2016 with a Feasibility Study. The project studied more than 100 options including tunnels, ferries, double-decker bridges and other bridge options.

From that study, four bridge alternatives were recommended for further evaluation in the Environmental Review Phase (2019-2023).

After a robust analysis of the impacts of the four alternatives, and with input from the community, agencies and regulatory bodies, the Replacement Long Span was selected as the Preferred Alternative.



Baseline concept of Replacement Long Span with tied arch.



Baseline concept of Replacement Long Span with cable stay.

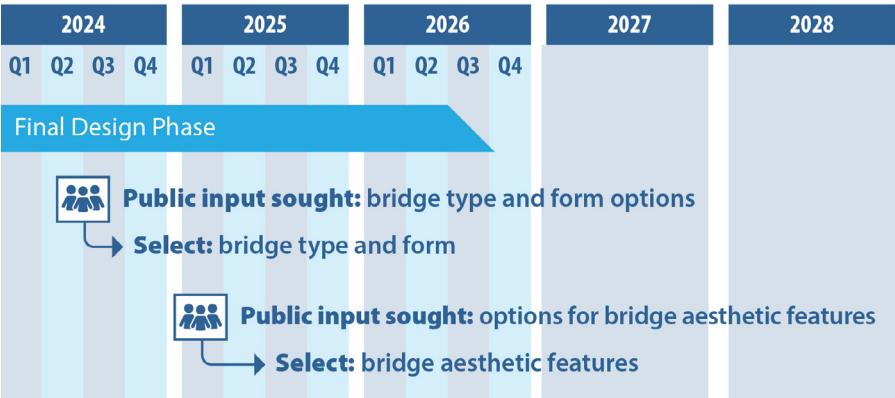
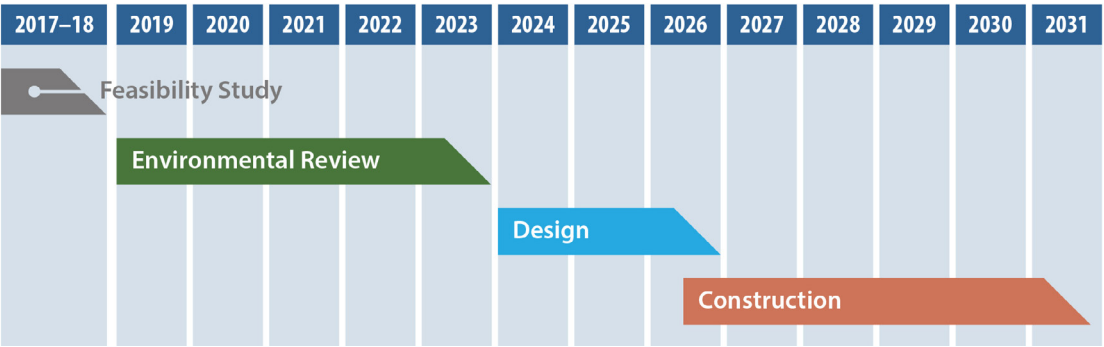
Design Phase

The project is now in the Design Phase. During this Phase the project team works closely with engineers, architects, contractors, agencies and regulatory bodies to analyze bridge form, architectural and aesthetic features, mechanical and structural components, constructability issues, costs and long-term maintenance considerations.

Schedule

The Design Phase will last approximately three years.

Early construction activities are anticipated to start in 2026, followed by the full bridge closure and reconstruction starting in 2027, pending full project funding. The County is actively pursuing grants and other funding opportunities at the local, state and federal levels to fully fund the project. The new Burnside Bridge could open as early as 2031 if the funding is secured.



Stay Involved

The Design Phase will include extensive public outreach. The community will be asked to provide feedback that will be used to make decisions about the final design of the bridge. After those design plans are complete, the project can move into construction.



Community Design Advisory Group

The County assembled a group of community members who represent a wide range of interests and backgrounds to make recommendations on the aesthetic features of the new bridge. The Community Design Advisory Group meetings are open to the public, live-streamed and recorded. The community is encouraged to follow along! To learn more about the CDAG, visit: www.multco.us/earthquake-ready-burnside-bridge/community-design-advisory-group

Multnomah County values the community’s input throughout this project. The community is encouraged to follow the progress of the project and weigh in at key milestones.

Stay up to date!

Visit the project website for the latest events, contact a team member or to sign-up for the project newsletter.

www.BurnsideBridge.org



Portland's aging downtown bridges are not expected to withstand a major earthquake.

Project Benefits



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 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 be making **permanent improvements to bicycle and pedestrian paths** along detour routes.



The project will create **thousands of jobs and pump \$545 million into the local, state and regional economy**. At a minimum, 25% of the workforce will be made up of women and minorities and at least 20% of the workforce will be from the tri-county area.

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