

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-093

Adopting the Recommended Preferred Alternative for Inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Multnomah County owns and maintains the Burnside Bridge, a 94-year-old structure that is nearing the end of its service life and was not designed to withstand a major earthquake.
- b. In March 1996, Metro designated Burnside Street a primary “East-West emergency transportation route” thereby establishing the Burnside corridor as a regional “lifeline” route.
- c. In April 2015, Multnomah County adopted the Willamette River Bridges Capital Improvement Plan, whereby the Burnside Bridge Seismic Feasibility Study was listed as the highest priority project in the 2015-2019 timeframe.
- d. A seismically resilient Burnside Bridge will support the region’s ability to provide rapid and reliable emergency response, rescue, and evacuation after a major earthquake, as well as enable post-earthquake economic recovery.
- e. In September 2016, Multnomah County began work on the Burnside Bridge Seismic Feasibility Study whose purpose was to create a range of options for a seismically resilient Burnside Bridge that will remain fully operational and accessible for vehicles and other modes of transportation immediately following a major Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. The outcomes of this study were adopted by the Board on November 1, 2018.
- f. In January 2020, Multnomah County adopted an update to the 2015 Willamette River Bridges Capital Improvement Plan, whereby the Burnside Bridge Environmental Impact Study was listed as the highest priority project in the 2020-2024 timeframe.
- g. In October 2018, Multnomah County convened a Policy Group made up of elected and appointed representatives of jurisdictions and agencies with an interest in the Burnside Bridge to make recommendations at project milestones during the Environmental Review Phase.
- h. The Policy Group has met four times during the Environmental Review Phase to review the project progress and to formalize their recommendation for a Preferred Alternative for inclusion into the publication of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

- i. The Policy Group consists of:
- Co-chair, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury
 - Co-chair, Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson
 - Doug Kelsey, TriMet General Manager
 - Chris Warner, Portland Bureau of Transportation Director
 - Rian Windsheimer, Oregon Department of Transportation (Region 1)
 - Phil Ditzler, Federal Highway Administration (Oregon)
 - Justin Douglas, Prosper Portland
 - Councilor Craig Dirksen, Metro
 - Interim Mayor Karylenn Echols, City of Gresham
 - Councilor Cate Arnold, City of Beaverton
 - Oregon State Senator Kathleen Taylor (District 21)
 - Oregon State Representative Barbara Smith Warner (District 45)
 - U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley's Office
 - U.S. Senator Ron Wyden's Office
 - U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer's Office
 - U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici's Office
- j. In October 2018, a Senior Agency Staff Group of 15 representatives from government agencies was formed to provide input on the Environmental Review Phase. This group met eight times.
- k. In October 2018, a Community Task Force of 21 citizens was formed as part of the Environmental Review Phase. The Community Task Force has met seventeen times.
- l. On September 21, 2020, the Community Task Force recommended a Preferred Alternative to be included in the publication of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The recommended Preferred Alternative consists of the Long Span Alternative and the closure of the bridge to traffic during the construction phase. The alternatives not selected include the Enhanced Seismic Retrofit, the Short Span Replacement Alternative, and the Couch Extension Replacement Alternative. The installation of a temporary movable bridge during the construction phase was not selected.
- m. On October 2, 2020, the Policy Group approved the Community Task Force's recommendation for the Preferred Alternative. The Policy Group forwarded these recommendations to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners for approval.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The work of the Community Task Force is appreciated. The Board thanks them for their service to the public.
2. The work of the Policy Group is appreciated. The Board thanks them for their service to the public.
3. To include the recommended Preferred Alternative in the publication of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

4. To direct staff in the Department of Community Services to work with the Federal Highway Administration to publish the draft Environmental Impact Study as soon as is practicable.

ADOPTED this 29th day of October, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Deborah Kafoury

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY MADOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Courtney Lords*
Courtney Lords, Senior Assistant County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Jamie Waltz, Director, Department of Community Services