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2023 Summer Newsletter

Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project receives \$20 million in state funding as it heads to Final Design Phase

Multnomah County is pleased to announce the [Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project](#) will receive \$20 million in state funding through [House Bill 5030](#), which the Oregon Legislature passed June 25. Governor Tina Kotek signed the bill into law on August 4. House Bill 5030 authorizes the issuance of \$453 million in lottery revenue bonds for a variety of projects, including \$20 million for the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project.



The Burnside Bridge.

"We are thrilled to receive this state funding," Project Manager Megan Neill said. "It helps build momentum for the project and validates the importance of investing in the resiliency of our transportation system."

"Multnomah County's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project is more than a bridge – it's an investment in the infrastructure our region will need to save lives and recover from the devastation we anticipate in the wake of this natural disaster," Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson said. "This bridge will be a lifeline at the exact moment we need it, reuniting families, connecting people to critical services, and helping us begin the long process of recovery and rebuilding. And this seismically resilient bridge will connect our community from east to west for the next 100+ years."

Leveraging Funding

The County thus far has been successful in securing multiple sources of funding in an effort to raise \$895 million for the project. To date, the County and local partners have already committed to funding \$300 million for the project, through the local vehicle registration fee. The County is actively pursuing various grants and other funding opportunities at the local, state and federal levels to fully fund the project. In 2022, the County was awarded a \$5 million federal grant and a \$2 million federal earmark.

The community continues to play an important role in project funding efforts. Many supporters provided in-person and written testimony during a legislative hearing this spring. The County will be pursuing additional funding for this project through federal grants and in future legislative sessions.

Final Design Phase to Kick Off Soon



Pictures show conceptual renderings of the Preferred Alternative, the Replacement Long Span. The images show two examples of what a long span bridge could look like (cable-stayed pictured at the top and tied-arch picture at the bottom).

Multnomah County is wrapping up the Environmental Review Phase with a Record of Decision anticipated late this year. In the meantime, the County is preparing to kick off the Design Phase this fall. After several years of planning and community outreach, the County selected the Replacement Long Span (see example renderings) as the Preferred Alternative to ensure the future Burnside Bridge can withstand a major earthquake and support the community's multimodal needs for the next century. This fall, the project team will begin a two year final design process. During this phase, the project team will work with the community on the aesthetic features of the new bridge, through its Community Design Advisory Group. This committee is made up of 22 community members who represent a wide range of interests and backgrounds.

Through a competitive selection process the County recently hired design firm, HDR, to support the project through the Design Phase. The County will select a Construction Manager/General Contractor this fall to help give input during the design process on construction methods that are more efficient, have fewer impacts on adjacent stakeholders and that they will ultimately use to construct the new bridge.

Workforce Outreach



Construction Project Manager Emily Miletich presents to contractors at the spring meet-and-greet event.

Preparing the contracting community and workforce pipeline to build the new Burnside Bridge is critical to the success of the project. To kick off its work with the contracting community, Multnomah County held a [meet-and-greet](#) at the

the contracting community, Multnomah County held a [meet and greet](#) at the Oregon Convention Center on April 26th, giving contractors an overview of the project and an opportunity to meet the project team.

Construction is expected to start in mid-2025 and last through 2031, should the project secure the remaining funds needed for the Construction Phase.

Community Design Advisory Group

In late 2022, the County began a recruitment process to form the Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG). This committee will help support the project team through the Design Phase by providing feedback on bridge aesthetics including colors, materials, lighting as well as the shape of certain features on the bridge. Multnomah County went through an extensive review process of nearly 80 applications and selected a group of 22 individuals who represent a diverse range of backgrounds, interests and demographics. The group will start meeting this fall and meetings will be open to the public.



Images of the Community Task Force, the committee that supported the Environmental Review Phase. The new committee, the CDAG, will support the Final Design Phase.

Stay Tuned!

The County encourages the community to stay involved in the project. There will be several opportunities to weigh in on design elements or show support for funding opportunities. Learn more or sign up for project newsletters at: www.BurnsideBridge.org.

NOTE: The EQRB website will be updated this fall as the project begins the Final Design Phase.

