Multnomah County is studying options for a resilient Burnside Bridge that will withstand a major earthquake.

About the Project
Portland’s aging downtown bridges, including the Burnside Bridge, were not built to withstand a major earthquake. Multnomah County is studying how to create a resilient Burnside Bridge that can carry traffic over the river after a disaster. The study will determine what improvements are needed to both extend the service life of the bridge and prepare it to survive a major earthquake.

A Resilient Earthquake River Crossing
Burnside Street is a regional lifeline transportation route designated to enable emergency response, evacuation and recovery soon after a major disaster. The route requires a river crossing that can withstand an earthquake to support emergency services, reunite families, move goods, enable commerce and help our economy recover. Our region will be divided if the lifeline route cannot safely move vehicles across the Willamette River after a disaster. This study will evaluate a variety of river crossing ideas and identify the best options for creating a resilient lifeline crossing that will serve our community for generations.

Our Community Needs to be Involved
It will take years to get an earthquake-safe crossing in place, so we must work thoughtfully and make steady progress toward that goal. Input from the community is essential to help us make sure that we find the best solution for everyone.
Get Involved
There are many voices in our community and considerations to take into account. Community-wide participation is vital so that our solution reflects shared values and serves the needs of us all.

The project includes many public involvement opportunities to ensure that the final feasibility study is informed by the needs and issues important to the public.

Visit burnsidebridge.org to:
• Sign up for study news and updates.
• Invite the project team to present to your community or business group.
• Learn about upcoming meetings, events and other ways you can weigh in.

Follow the project
@MultCoBridges

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Points of Interest

Burnside Bridge
• Bridge opened in 1926
• 40,000 vehicles, 3 TriMet bus lines, and 2,000 bicycles and pedestrians cross the bridge daily

Burnside Street: Regional Lifeline Route
• 18.7 miles long, connecting Beaverton to Gresham
• Metro designated Burnside a Priority 1 route in the late 1990s

Regional Earthquake Risk
• The Portland region is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone where powerful, recurring earthquakes can cause widespread catastrophic damage to built structures.
• The next major earthquake could happen at any time.