



Multnomah County is creating
an earthquake ready
downtown river crossing.

Community Design Advisory Group

Meeting 14 Summary

Project staff provided an update on project costs, including the Value Engineering (VE) and Cost Estimating processes. Staff reported \$740 million in secured funding, but a significant gap remains and construction will not begin until more funding is secured. BEAM Architects presented modifications to the bridge design, including a shorter span, a single operator tower, and revised bridge piers. CDAG members asked questions, shared feedback throughout the meeting, and emphasized their priorities such as pedestrian spaces and pedestrian access from the bridge to park facilities below, as well as contingency plans for earthquake resilience.

The meeting was held in-person at the Multnomah Building Boardroom from 6:00-8:00 p.m., live streamed and recorded.

ATTENDEES

CDAG MEMBERS

Aaron Whelton, Portland State University
Anthony Jackson, Community Member
Erik Swenson, Portland Saturday Market
(virtual)
Gabe Rahe, Burnside Skatepark
Ian Sieren, Community Member
Jackie Tate, Community Member
Neil Jensen, Gresham Chamber of Commerce
Jason Halstead, Community Member
Paddy Tillett, Architect/Design Professional
Patrick Sullivan, Community Member
Robert Hastings, Willamette Light Brigade
Sharon Wood Wortman, Historian
Ed Wortman, Community Member
Susan Lindsay, Buckman Neighborhood
Association

CDAG MEMBERS ABSENT

Brian P. Kimura, Japanese American Museum
of Oregon
Carol Gossett, Oregon Museum of Science &
Industry

Fred Cooper, Laurelhurst Neighborhood
Association & Native American Youth and
Family Center
Guenevere Millius, Sunnyside Neighborhood
Association
Valerie Schiller, Multnomah County Bike and
Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee
Todd DeNeffe, Central Eastside Industrial
Council

STAFF

Megan Neill, Multnomah County
Sarah Hurwitz, Multnomah County
Emily Miletech, Multnomah County
Keith Brownlie, BEAM Architects
Stacy Thomas, HDR
Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement
Tuyen Ta, JLA Public Involvement
Madison Gryba, David Evans & Associates

PUBLIC

*One member of the public observed the
meeting in-person.*

SUMMARY

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, reviewed the agenda, meeting protocols, and summarized key dates and discussions topics in the CDAG workplan for the remaining CDAG meetings.

Emily Miletech, Multnomah County, provided an update on project costs, covering the Value Engineering (VE) and Cost Estimating processes. The VE goal was to reduce costs through creative problem-solving, while still meeting the project's goals and objectives. The processes resulted in \$160 million in total savings through design changes, an updated cost range, and identification of major cost drivers. **CDAG members** asked follow up questions on VE results.

Megan Neill, Multnomah County, shared an update on the project's path forward. With \$740 million secured and additional grants pending, the funding gap ranges from \$860 million to \$1.06 billion. Construction will not be scheduled until more funding is secured, but key design work will continue to ensure that the project is construction-ready when additional funding is secured. The CDAG committee will reconvene when the project resumes. However, the final scheduled CDAG meeting will be held in November 2025. **CDAG members** asked questions and discussed project priorities, including continued effort to advocate for the Eastbank Esplanade connection, possibilities for public-private partnerships, and the desire to understand the County's contingency plan in case of a Cascadia-level earthquake.

Keith Brownlie, BEAM Architects, shared modifications to the west, middle, and east spans bridge design which resulted from the VE process. These modifications include a shorter bridge span, a single operator tower, and changes to the shape of the bridge piers both in the water and on land.

CDAG Members asked questions and provided feedback including support for some new design elements (more dedicated public space to pedestrians and the open view from under the bridge to the river) and concerns over some changes (on-bridge parking, the loss of the vertical indentation on the tower, and the vertical louvers on the in-water piers).

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, made a final call for questions and comments, shared that the last meeting will be held next month, and adjourned the meeting.

DECISIONS / COMMENTS

There were no formal decisions or recommendations made at this meeting.

There were no public comments at the meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The final CDAG meeting will be on **Thursday, November 20, 2025**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The meeting recording and materials are available at www.multco.us/earthquake-ready-burnside-bridge/community-design-advisory-group-meeting-materials.