



Multnomah County is creating
an earthquake ready
downtown river crossing.

Community Design Advisory Group

Meeting 15 Summary

Project staff provided an update on pedestrian access for the new bridge, including connections to the Eastbank Esplanade and Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park. HLB Lighting Design presented the latest bridge lighting design, which reflects recent structural changes. CDAG members provided feedback on lighting elements. Project staff also shared that planning for a Centennial Celebration is underway for the bridge's 100th anniversary. CDAG members participated in a roundtable discussion to share lessons learned and future project considerations. Jon Henrichsen concluded the meeting by thanking CDAG members for their participation and commitment.

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
Brian P. Kimura, Japanese American Museum
of Oregon
Erik Swenson, Portland Saturday Market
Fred Cooper, Laurelhurst Neighborhood
Association & Native American Youth and
Family Center
Gabe Rahe, Burnside Skatepark
Gwen Millius, Sunnyside Neighborhood
Association
Ian Sieren, Community Member
Jackie Tate, Community Member
Neil Jensen, Gresham Chamber of Commerce
Jason Halstead, Community Member
Paddy Tillett, Architect/Design Professional
Robert Hastings, Willamette Light Brigade
Sharon Wood Wortman, Historian
Ed Wortman, Community Member
Susan Lindsay, Buckman Neighborhood
Association

Valerie Schiller, Multnomah County Bike and
Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee

CDAG MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Gossett, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry
Patrick Sullivan, Community Member
Todd DeNeffe, Central Eastside Industrial Council

STAFF

Megan Neill, Multnomah County
Sarah Hurwitz, Multnomah County
Jon Henrichsen, Multnomah County
Elizabeth Johnson, HLB
Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement
Tuyen Ta, JLA Public Involvement
Madison Gryba, David Evans & Associates

PUBLIC

*Three members of the public observed the
meeting in-person.*

SUMMARY

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, welcomed CDAG members, thanked them for their time on the committee and provided an overview for the meeting agenda.

Megan Neill, Multnomah County, provided an update on pedestrian access from the bridge, including connections to the Eastbank Esplanade and Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The County is committed to building a new connection to the Eastbank Esplanade. Portland Parks & Recreation is leading efforts to explore a potential connection from the bridge to the waterfront park as part of the master planning process for the Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park Redevelopment Project. Parks Planner Marty Stockton was available to answer questions during and after the meeting. **CDAG members** did not have additional questions or comments.

Elizabeth Johnson, HLB Lighting Design, provided an update on bridge lighting based on recent structural changes and presented the latest design. **CDAG members** asked questions and offered feedback on several elements, including concerns regarding direct lighting views due to changes in design to the tower shape, the daylight appearance of the lighting fixtures, lighting on the bascule piers, and some members desire to add illumination of the cables.

Sarah Hurwitz, Multnomah County, shared that the Burnside Bridge turns 100 years old on May 28, 2026. Planning for a Centennial Celebration is underway and includes partnerships with local organizations to create a meaningful community event. The event date and additional details will be shared as the date approaches.

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, facilitated roundtable remarks and collected lessons learned and considerations for the project “pick-up” plan. **CDAG members** expressed appreciation for the project team and provided several suggestions, including reconsidering or refining certain design elements, such as the changes to the tower shape, pedestrian access, vehicle capacity, operator parking on the bridge, and providing additional bridge renderings from the east side looking west. Members also shared the importance of maintaining public visibility on building an earthquake-ready structure, exploring private funding opportunities, increasing community interest and enthusiasm, and securing political champions for the bridge.

Jon Henrichsen, Multnomah County, thanked CDAG members for their participation and commitment to the project. **CDAG members** viewed a video message from Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson expressing gratitude for their service on the project. Thank-you cards were distributed to CDAG members.

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, made a final call for comments 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

There were no next steps. This was the final CDAG meeting.

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