



Multnomah County is creating an earthquake-ready downtown river crossing.

BETTER – SAFER – CONNECTED

January 18, 2024

Community Design Advisory Group

Meeting 4 Summary

The fourth meeting was held virtually due to inclement weather from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. During the meeting, the Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) met the contractors and architects. The group also learned more about bridge architectural context and initiated the review of the updated Guiding Principles (formerly called Evaluation Criteria). The meeting was virtual, live streamed and recorded.

ATTENDEES

CDAG MEMBERS

Aaron Whelton, Portland State University
Anthony Jackson, Community Member
Brian P. Kimura, Japanese American Museum of Oregon
Carol Gosset, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry
Fred Cooper, Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association & Native American Youth and Family Center
Guenevere Millius, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
Ian Sieren, Community Member
Jason Halstead, Community Member
Neil Jensen, Gresham Chamber of Commerce
Paddy Tillett, Architect/Design Professional
Patrick Sullivan, SERA Architects
Robert Hastings, Willamette Light Brigade
Sharon Wood Wortman, Historian
Ed Wortman, Community Member
Sarah Lazzaro, Community Member
Susan Lindsay, Buckman Neighborhood Association
Todd DeNeffe, Central Eastside Industrial Council
Valerie Schiller, Multnomah County Bike and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee

ABSENT

Erik Swenson, Portland Saturday Market
Gabe Rahe, Burnside Skatepark
Jackie Tate, Community Member

PROJECT STAFF

Megan Neill, Multnomah County
Elizabeth Britell, Multnomah County
Emily Miletich, Multnomah County
Ryan Rucker, Multnomah County
Steve Drahota, HDR
Carol Mayer-Reed, Mayer/Reed
Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement
Jen Winslow, JLA Public Involvement
Cassie Davis, CD Consulting
Steve Wood, Burnside Bridge Partners
Dan Raynor, Burnside Bridge Partners
Keith Brownlie, BEAM Architects

PUBLIC

Members of the public were welcome to observe the meeting virtually.



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SUMMARY

Steve Wood and Dan Raynor from Burnside Bridge Partners (BBP) introduced themselves and gave a presentation about BBP and its role on the project. Burnside Bridge Partners is a joint venture between three notable transportation and bridge construction firms. This includes [Stacy and Witbeck](#) (the employee-owned firm that built Portland's streetcar system and multiple light rail lines), [Traylor Bros](#) (which has constructed more than 135 major bridges), and [American Bridge](#) (which fabricated the original Burnside Bridge and built the Astoria Bridge over the Columbia River during its more than 120-year history). The team is excited to work on this project together. After the presentation, they answered questions from the CDAG.

Keith Brownlie from BEAM Architects introduced himself and gave a presentation on bridge context (specific to Portland), typologies (bridges that can be built) and constraints (physical restrictions). He showed examples of bridges that BEAM Architects have designed all over the world. He answered questions from the CDAG following the presentation.

Megan Neill, Multnomah County Design Phase Project Manager, reviewed the updated CDAG work plan. There will be some additional meetings to discuss this topic. The project team will reach out to CDAG members to see whether extended meetings or additional meeting dates make the most sense for the group.

Carol Mayer-Reed from Mayer/Reed provided an overview of the Guiding Principles and how they have changed since the last meeting based on CDAG input. CDAG members asked questions, provided comments on the information presented, and commented on the Guiding Principles.

DECISIONS / COMMENTS

There were no decisions or recommendations made at this meeting.

There were no public comments at the meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The next CDAG meeting will be **Thursday, March 14, 2024** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Building, Boardroom 100 (501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland).

CDAG members were asked to review the Guiding Principles before the next meeting.

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



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APPENDIX. A - VIRTUAL MEETING CHAT DIALOGUE

- **Robert Hastings:** Big shout out to Steve Wood...who helped make the Mall Revitalization Project such a huge success!
- **Jason Halstead:** Just curious...how many proposals/contractors were reviewed? And congrats to Burnside Bridge Partners for their selection.
- **Anthony Jackson:** Is there a contingency plan in case of an earthquake or serious natural disaster during the construction phase of the new and improved Burnside Bridge? What has been done in the past when unexpected events, that impacted construction, have occurred?
- **Emily Miletich:** We received two initial proposals.
- **Todd DeNeffe:** Is there efforts to source when possible locally services....materials etc?
- **Valerie Schiller:** Have any of the risks of past projects affected the final design?
- **Emily Miletich:** To answer Todd's question - yes, materials and services will be sourced locally whenever possible! There are also requirements that at least 20% of the workforce will be from local ZIP codes.
- **Valerie Schiller:** I wanted to make sure I saw correctly on Keith's slideshow: Does our current design leave the possibility of a connection to the Eastside Esplanade? That was one of the questions which came from the County Bike and Ped Committee. I couldn't recall if we talked about that specifically at an earlier session, other than the soil issues to consider on the east side construction.
- **Megan Neill:** @Valerie, we are still working together with the City on that connection point, and should have an update for the CDAG in Feb/March timeframe.
- **Susan Lindsay:** @Megan...looking forward to getting that update.
- **Guenevere Millius:** Do we know if, by code, the 250' height limit actually applies to this type of structure?
- **Todd DeNeffe:** I love English accents...makes me much more interested.
- **Guenevere Millius:** Interesting to think about the sequence of large / monumental objects that occur on that I-5 stretch, with this bridge, convention center, and rose quarter.
- **Robert Hastings:** I'm keen to see Keith Brownlie/BEAM making such a big deal about the context, the urban influences, and pointing out the Bridge is much more than a static object...
- **Todd DeNeffe:** These last images look very cool!
- **Dan Raynor:** Steve Wood and I will be leaving the office here to avoid some weather. Appreciate meeting you all and really enjoy this discussion. Sorry to leave early! Please feel free to reach out with any questions.
- **Guenevere Millius:** I think that sense of flow type to type will be critical to this being a successful bridge.
- **Fred Cooper:** You responded to my concern exactly - how to design one bridge, not three.
- **Jason Halstead:** Sometimes limitations drive the best creativity.
- **Anthony Jackson:** If we're resigned to choose between the two bridge types for the eastside long span (tied-arch and cable stayed), I want to see the cost comparisons between those two options. Do we have that information to share with us all?



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- **Valerie Schiller:** You don't want to get people excited with the ideal then take that away with the reality of our budget. We shouldn't wait too long before understanding that piece.
- **Valerie Schiller:** Yes, thank you for the presentation!
- **Aaron Whelton:** agreed. wonderful presentation.
- **Keith Brownlie:** "Do we know if, by code, the 250' height limit actually applies to this type of structure?" - It does not apply to this structure, but it does provide 'context'.
- **Jason Halstead:** Thanks, Keith. That's helpful information.
- **Guenevere Millius:** It seems like 250' is plenty of height for the bridge, but it's good to know there is flexibility there, if needed and warranted
- **Sarah Lazzaro:** I'm open to longer/fewer meetings, and Saturday meetings.
- **Jason Halstead:** Happy to do a Saturday...if we're "workshopping" interactively.
- **Jason Halstead:** Longer/fewer meetings are OK if they support productivity.
- **Guenevere Millius:** Generally, weekends are more flexible for me than weekday evenings. Some weekday evenings have "immovable objects" in them for me; Thursdays are fine for me overall.
- **Sarah Lazzaro:** My only ask is if we could land on meeting dates sooner than later. I travel quite a bit and want to prioritize these meetings.
- **Ian Paul Sieren:** Saturdays are very rough for me, at least til after 19:00
- **Brandy Steffen:** Thanks everyone for your thoughts about meeting times/schedules. Continue to provide your thoughts here or follow up with me via email directly at brandy.steffen@jla.us.com
- **Anthony Jackson:** I'm personally not interested in doing this work on a Saturday except as a possible contingency or emergency situation. I typically have other personal plans on my Saturdays.
- **Susan Lindsay:** Weekends are not my fav.
- **Brian Kimura:** I am often unavailable for weekends and prefer weekday nights.
- **Robert Hastings:** Glad Carol is explaining the Guiding Principles are NOT criteria...like is used for buildings, product design, other specific design objects.
- **Emily Miletich:** I have to hop off, but it was great to meet you all and thank you Keith for your presentation!
- **Jason Halstead:** I'm so glad that this has surfaced. My biggest concern is around "criteria" being used in earlier drafts.
- **Fred Cooper:** Considering technology, the movable span bascule mechanism is very critical to bridge pier form and style. Will there be an early decision on this?
- **Guenevere Millius:** Thank you everyone, really excited about what is coming!
- **Aaron Whelton:** Thank you everyone.