



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

BETTER – SAFER – CONNECTED

March 14, 2024

Community Design Advisory Group

Meeting 5 Summary

During the first portion of the meeting, the project’s architect presented various bridge design options under consideration. Later in the evening, the contractor presented to the group, sharing factors they’re assessing related to constructability, risk and cost. The meeting was held in-person at the Multnomah Building, Boardroom from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The meeting was 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
Erik Jensen, Portland Saturday Market
Fred Cooper, Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association & Native American Youth and Family Center
Gabe Rahe, Burnside Skatepark
Guenevere Millius, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
Ian Sieren, Community Member
Jackie Tate, Community Member
Jason Halstead, Community Member
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
Todd DeNeffe, Central Eastside Industrial Council
Valerie Schiller, Multnomah County Bike and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee

Susan Lindsay, Buckman Neighborhood Association

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
Esme Schornstein, JLA Public Involvement
Cassie Davis, CD Consulting

CONTRACTORS

Steve Wood, Burnside Bridge Partners
Jennifer Delong, Burnside Bridge Partners

ARCHITECTS

Keith Brownlie, BEAM Architects

PUBLIC

Rick Potestio
Mike McCulloch

ABSENT

Neil Jensen, Gresham Chamber of Commerce



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SUMMARY

Carol Mayer-Reed, Mayer/Reed, confirmed the updated CDAG Guiding Principles with the group.

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, noted that the group was in agreement with moving forward with these Guiding Principles and two members had some concerns that would be submitted to the project team.

Megan Neill, Multnomah County, and Keith Brownlie, BEAM Architects, reviewed the current status of the design. Megan reminded the group of Multnomah County's parameters for bridge design:

1. Design should maintain an open roadway deck with no obstructions to allow for future flexibility in the use of the lanes.
2. The National Park Service cannot permit any structure above the deck on the west approach, and strongly encourages maintaining open views from the movable span looking west into the historic district.
3. The County would like to adhere to the \$895 million budget.

Keith Brownlie reminded everyone that the most defining constraints are the seismic conditions on the east side of the river. Brownlie and James Marks lead [BEAM Architects](#). The County selected the firm in fall 2023 to serve as the project's architects through the Design Phase. Brownlie gave the group an overview of the bridge type variations that are being considered or have been taken out of the running as options. The options range in height, length and how the elements connect to each other.

He also shared the complexities of building this bridge in a symbiotic way. The project team will need to design three different sections of the bridge that cohesively fit together as one. The east side of the bridge will be a long span that stretches over liquefiable soil, the middle section is an opening span for ships and the west is a series of shorter spans extending into downtown. The CDAG will review a further refined set of designs in May 2024 before the County asks the general public for input. He answered questions from the CDAG following the presentation.

Steve Wood and Jennifer DeLong, Burnside Bridge Partners, and Emily Miletich, Multnomah County, went over the current project stage (15% design, bridge type, and analysis), as well as Burnside Bridge Partners (BBP's) role to ensure cost certainty and the construction schedule. [Burnside Bridge Partners](#) gave an update on how it's helping the project team during the Design Phase. In fall 2023, the County selected Burnside Bridge Partners as its construction contractor to build the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge. The firm is a joint venture between three notable transportation and bridge construction firms. This includes [Stacy 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 in its more than 120-year history.



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Steve Wood, the Burnside Bridge Partners project manager said the contracting team has been handed 15% design plans and is in the early stages of developing a price for building the project. Wood noted the contractor's role during the Design Phase is to evaluate cost, schedule and constructability.

BBP explained how projects start with the understanding of risk. Burnside Bridge Partners Deputy Project Manager, Jennifer DeLong said inflation along with the availability of subcontractors and suppliers is an important component of that evaluation process.

The BBP team also noted it's not here in the Design Phase to form opinions, but to deliver information to Multnomah County.

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

DECISIONS / COMMENTS

There were no decisions or recommendations made at this meeting.

Brandy Steffen facilitated the public questions/comments.

Mike McCulloch stated: "As an architect and someone who is on the Portland Design Commission, I recognize the difficulty of the committee's task. Portland is famous for public participation for major projects. It is really important to answer Brian's question: what is the aspiration for this project? What is the big picture? You guys must be involved in making something that the whole city will love and that your grandchildren will love. I'm glad to hear about Keith's concerns about urban design considerations. Portland, I think, is going to get credit for transcending some of the norms. You all have heard of the airport—look at what the airlines are supporting. I was head of the commission when the tram was coming into effect—it was over budget but look, now the whole country recognizes it. This is going to be one of the biggest projects of the 21st century. Aspirations are important."

NEXT STEPS

Brandy Steffen will be reaching out to schedule two meetings in May 2024. There will be additional follow-up with the committee to coordinate summer briefings for groups each member represents.