

CONSULTING PARTIES ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Meeting Date: Friday, October 24, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual – MS Teams

Attendees: *(mark x for attendance in field to the left next to the name)*

	Chris Bailey, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community	X	Hannah Mellor, Oregon Dept. of Transportation
	Briece Edwards, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community	X	Roy Watters, Oregon Dept. of Transportation
	David Harrelson, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community	X	Sarah Jalving, State Historic Preservation Office
	Peter Hatch, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	X	Kurt Roedel, State Historic Preservation Office
	Buddy Lane, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians		Tim Heron, Portland Permitting & Development, Historic Landmark Commission
	Ashley Morton, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	X	Hillary Adam, Portland Permitting & Development
	Robert Brunoe, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation		Brandon Spencer-Hartle, Portland Permitting & Development
	Austin Smith Jr., Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation		Laurie Jordon, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
	Casey Barney, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	X	Steve Dotterrer, Architectural Heritage Center
X	Gregg Kiona, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation		James Heuer, Architectural Heritage Center
	Jessica Lally, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	X	Heather Flint Chatto, Architectural Heritage Center
	Noah Oliver, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation		Nathan Holth, HistoricBridges.org
	James Gordon, Cowlitz Indian Tribe	X	Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, Japanese American Museum of Oregon
	David Clarke, Federal Highway Administration	X	Brian Kimura, Japanese American Museum of Oregon
	Misty Thorsgard, Federal Highway Administration		John Czarnecki, New Traditional Architecture
	Thomas Parker, Federal Highway Administration		Kim Moreland, Oregon Black Pioneers
	Erin Parker, Federal Highway Administration		Kerry Tymchuck, Oregon Historical Society
	Astrid Liverman, National Park Service		Nicole Possert, Restore Oregon
	Doug Wilson, National Park Service		Representative, Willamette Light Brigade
	Christopher Johnson, National Park Service	X	Ed Wortman, Author and Historian
	Elaine Jackson-Retondo, National Park Service	X	Sharon Wood Wortman, Author and Historian
X	Sarah Eastman-Flores, Oregon Dept. of Transportation		Stella Funk Butler, Gresham Coalition of Neighborhoods
X	Bob Hadlow, Oregon Dept. of Transportation	X	J.R. Lilly, Tribal Liaison, Multnomah County

X	Megan Neill, MC		Steve Drahota, AE
X	Jill Wolf, MC		April Siebenaler, AE
	Sarah Hurwitz, MC		Christina Tomaselli, AE
X	Gigi Cooper, OR	X	Brian Bauman, AE
	James Hencke, OR	X	Jen Hughes, AE
	Suzanne Carey, OR	X	Adam Alsobrook, AE
X	Brandy Steffen, AE (Facilitator)		David Ellis, AE
	Rachel Spencer, AE		Stacy Thomas, AE
	Shannon Simms, AE		Jeramie Shane, AE
	Kathy Fry, AE	X	Lizzy Bridwell, AE
X	Diane Mottiqua, AE		

MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Topic	Presenter	Duration
Welcome and Roll Call	Roy, ODOT	5 min
Project Update	Megan, Multnomah County	35 min
Advisory Group Next Steps	Roy & Bob, ODOT	5 min
Discussion	Brandy, A&E Team	10 min

Welcome and Roll Call

- Roy Watters (Oregon Department of Transportation [ODOT]) and Brandy Steffen (Design Team, JLA) conducted roll call and welcomed the group. Sarah Eastman-Flores (ODOT) attended in place of Tom McConnell who is retiring at the end of this year.

Topics for Meeting #8

- Brandy Steffen (Design Team, JLA) provided an overview of the agenda topics for today's meeting including a project update and Consulting Party Advisory Group next steps.

Project Update

- Megan Neill (Multnomah County) provided a review of progress to date and design updates.
- CM/GC and Independent Cost Estimating team developed construction costs and schedule; conducted risk workshop; conducted value engineering (VE) workshop.
- Purpose of VE is to reduce cost through creative idea generation and problem solving, while continuing to meet project goals and objectives.
- Workshop led to:
 - Over 160 VE ideas generated

- 24 VE alternatives designed, analyzed, and priced
- Low-cost alternative explored
- Total of \$160M in savings identified
- Top cost savings ideas include:
 - Shortening movable span
 - Reducing size of in-water piers
 - Reducing removal of existing piers
 - Changing construction approach for in-water pier removal
 - Reducing number of operator houses
- Updated range of costs is \$1.6-\$1.8B, which includes:
 - All project phases (design, ROW, utilities, construction)
 - 30% contingency for risk and design development
 - 3.75% escalation to midpoint of construction
 - Value engineering results
- Major cost drivers include:
 - Rising material costs
 - Regional competition in the labor market
 - Increased demand for construction projects
 - Market uncertainty
 - Changes to construction timeline
 - Scope growth as a result of design development (e.g. utility impacts)
- Available project financing as of July 2025: \$740m
 - Includes funding secured to date
 - Assumes County would pursue a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan
 - Repayment begins 5 years after project substantial completion (FY 2038)
 - 30-year borrowing term

Funding Type	Description	Amount	Status
Local	Accumulated VRF for Design Phase	\$58 million	Secured
Regional	Metro Regional Flex Funds	\$10 million	Secured
State	HB 5030 Lottery Bond (2023)	\$20 million	Secured
Federal	Grants/Appropriations	\$7 million	Secured
	Subtotal:	\$95 million	
Local	Accumulated VRF for Construction Ph. (2026 - 2037)	\$260 million	Available
Federal	TIFIA Borrowing Capacity based on VRF Revenue	\$385 million	Available
	Subtotal:	\$645 million	
	Total Project Financing Available:	\$740 million	

- USDOT Bridge Investment Program grant application is pending
- Funding gap is currently \$860M - \$1.06B based on fall 2033 completion date

- Beginning of construction is currently not set due to ongoing uncertainty at the federal level around transportation funding
- Key design work will be completed to ensure the project is construction-ready
- FY26/FY27
 - Will advance level of design to 60% (anticipated May 2026)
 - Prepare and submit all permits and land use applications with long lead time or shelf life (e.g., USCG permit, Type IV Demolition permit)
 - Prepare final drafts of all other permits and land use applications
 - Document key design decisions and agency/stakeholder agreements to date
 - Prepare “Pick Up Plan”
 - Develop 60% cost estimate and updated range of costs
 - Continue to pursue funding opportunities as they arise

Discussion

- Hillary Adam (Portland Permitting & Development) – Expressed disappointment in the VE changes. Is there an opportunity to provide feedback on this? Shape of in-water piers feels blocky. If there is an opportunity to obtain additional funding in the future, would love to put it here.
 - Megan Neill (Multnomah County) – Feedback can be provided during this meeting and also via email to EQRB-Consulting-Parties@multco.us.
- Brian Kimura (Japanese American Museum of Oregon) – Agreed the in-water piers need refinement; previous design is more cohesive and continuous. Would also like to see more refinement of the inverted-Y tower. How is the Waterfront Park Activation Study interfacing with this project?
 - Hillary Adam (Portland Permitting & Development) – The Waterfront Activation Study, by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) with Mayer Reed as consultant, aims to draw people to the area through creating activity and reasons to visit the waterfront. Will not be getting into how people access the bridge as that would be covered by this project, but Mayer Reed’s work on this project has informed the Study. Also have the somewhat adjacent Waterfront Bowl competition that will become a project in the future.
- Sharon Wood Wortman – Thanked Megan for the presentation. Agree about the bulkiness of the piers. Urge the City of Portland, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Multnomah County to work together on access for people of all abilities at both ends of the bridge. What are the next steps from a historical perspective?
 - Megan Neill (Multnomah County) – Programmatic Agreement commitments will remain the same and mitigation commitments will continue when the project picks back up. Will pause work on incorporation of salvaged materials and integrating west approach design into the historic district.
- Roy Watters (ODOT) – Thanked Megan for the presentation and encouraged the Advisory Group to provide comments via email in the near future. Seems like incorporating VE ideas into the 60% plans will lock us into this design.
 - Megan Neill (Multnomah County) – The 60% effort is aimed at wanting to capture a plan set that documents the thinking of the design team and decisions made to date. Design can be revisited when the project picks back up.
 - Roy Watters (ODOT) – We want to be sure the group provides input so we can consider the trade-offs associated with these changes.

- Sarah Eastman-Flores (ODOT) – Is the change of cladding on the piers structural or more decorative? If there is a desire to change it back in the future, would you be losing a lot of effort that went into this change?
 - Megan Neill (Multnomah County) – Some rework would be required, but a small amount of work for a change that would last 100 years.

Next Steps

Advisory Group Interest Areas

- Remaining work associated with Programmatic Agreement will be deferred until the project picks back up.
- Progress and decisions to date will be documented as part of the project record.
- Pick Up Plan will identify key activities and timing to start construction in two years upon restart.
- County will seek City approval for Type IV Demo Land Use App (Nov 25 - Feb 26).
- County will host the Burnside Centennial celebration during the 2026 Rose Festival.

Next Meeting

- Targeting early 2026 for next meeting, which will include review of:
 - Decisions made to date
 - Proposed amendments to the charter to reflect change in project status
 - Proposed amendment to the Programmatic Agreement
 - Pick Up Plan for the Advisory Group should a path to funding the construction phase be identified
- Reminder for Input:
 - Email to EQRB-Consulting-Parties@multco.us
- Materials Website:
 - <https://www.multco.us/earthquake-ready-burnside-bridge/consulting-parties-advisory-group-meeting-materials>
- Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) presentation:
 - <https://multco.us/info/community-design-advisory-group>
- Tom McCall Waterfront Park Bowl Redevelopment Project:
 - <https://www.portland.gov/parks/waterfront>