

Public Engagement Summary: Fall 2024–December 2025 and Key Cumulative Phase Summaries

Date: December 22, 2025
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INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project's public outreach from November 2024 through December 2025, which included a variety of approaches through online communications and in-person opportunities as the team progressed through the Design Phase.

BRIEFINGS

The project team conducted more than a dozen briefings with community organizations, individuals and agencies. The briefings provided an opportunity for stakeholders and interested groups to stay up-to-date and engaged with the project. The briefings were also opportunities to continue to build meaningful relationships with these groups. Stakeholders and interested groups requested a project briefing via emails and phone calls.

Generally, the project presented:

- Project overview including selected bridge type
- Schedule
- Construction detours routes and business impacts
- Ways to stay involved

Briefings were offered and/or provided to a number of organizations representing various community interests, as well as impacted property owners, parks and community spaces and local, regional, state and federal agencies.

Full briefings list:

- Central Eastside Industrial Council
- Japanese American Museum of Oregon
- Willamette Light Brigade
- City of Portland Dusseldorf Exchange
- City of Portland Parks
- Saturday Market
- City of Portland Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Multnomah County Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation
- Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Community Advisory Committee

- Old Town Community Association
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- PSU Engineering students

CONSULTING PARTIES ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

The project's Consulting Parties Advisory Group (CPAG) continued its work at three meetings:

- [April 25, 2025](#)
- [June 27, 2025](#)
- [October 24, 2025](#)

The CPAG was formed as part of the Design Phase to comply with the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and is comprised of individuals and organization with an expressed interest in historic preservation along with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The group will meet one additional time in 2026, for a total of nine meetings since the start of the design phase.

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

The project's Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) continued meetings through fall 2025.

The CDAG met six times between November 2024 and November 2025, for a total of 15 meetings since the start of the design phase. Visit the links below for access to meeting materials on the project website.

- [November 20, 2025](#)
- [October 23, 2025](#)
- [April 3, 2025](#) (lunch briefing, optional)
- [March 20, 2025](#)
- [January 23, 2025](#)
- [November 21, 2024](#)

The CDAG is made up of community members who represent a range of interests and backgrounds from the broader community. The CDAG provided input to the project team on bridge aesthetics including colors, materials and lighting as well as the shape of certain features on the bridge.

TEST SHAFT COMMUNICATIONS

Between January and April 2025, the project built a 10-foot diameter and 125-foot deep test shaft (foundation) just north of the Burnside Bridge in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The purpose was to help

engineers understand and verify how designs for the new Burnside Bridge foundations will interact with the soil.

The following outreach was conducted as part of that effort:

- Web page provided information and the ability to sign up for weekly email updates
- New releases
 - [Crews to build test foundation as part of Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project | Multnomah County](#), January 6, 2025
 - [PRESS INVITE: Interview opportunity as crews begin to build Burnside Bridge test foundation | Multnomah County](#), February 3, 2025
 - [Completed test foundation work verifies design calculations for Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project | Multnomah County](#), May 2, 2025
- February 4, 2025 press event
- The project sent regular email updates to directly impacted/interested stakeholders near the work zone.

E-NEWSLETTERS AND NEWS RELEASES

Five e-newsletters were sent to the project email list (3,448 subscribers), for a total of eight since the start of the Design Phase:

- [2025 December Newsletter](#)
- [2025 November Newsletter](#)
- [Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge: Newsletter, August 2025](#)
- [Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge_ Newsletter, April 2025](#)
- [Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge_ Newsletter, December 2024](#)

News releases not listed elsewhere include:

- [NEWS RELEASE: Citing ongoing federal uncertainty, County moving forward with design, pushing back construction for Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project | Multnomah County](#), October 20, 2025
- [Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project awarded \\$10 million from Oregon Metro | Multnomah County](#), August 5, 2025
- [NEWS RELEASE: Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project extending Design Phase, delaying construction to 2028 | Multnomah County](#), March 20, 2025

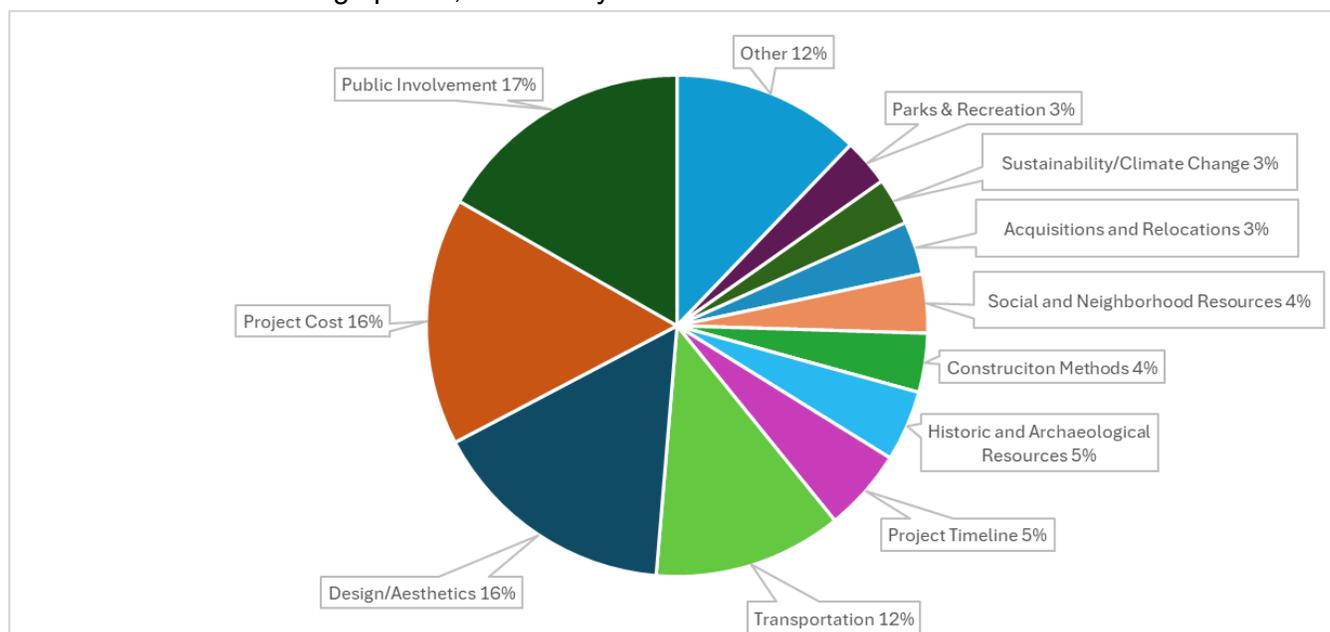
EMAIL INQUIRIES

Throughout the project the community has been able to submit comments or questions, sign up to receive e-newsletters, and request a project briefing through the project page webform. The County has responded to each comment form and email submission throughout the project.

Since November 2024, the County has received 33 comments. Common inquiries received were:

- Suggestions for bridge design, ramps to the esplanade and traffic patterns
- Questions about construction, bridge closing, and detour routes
- Requests for project updates
- Questions and feedback for CDAG meetings
- Questions about seismic resiliency

Since the start of the design phase, the County has received 297 comments via webforms.



Most common inquiry topics for emails to the project inbox throughout the Design Phase.

NEWS COVERAGE

The project team kept interested parties informed using e-newsletters and news releases. These efforts were bolstered by news coverage. There have been 85 news stories since the start of the design phase, 32 of which were published since November 2024 in various outlets including KGW8, KATU2, OregonLive, OPB, BikePortland.org, and others.