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**Better. Safer.
Connected.**



Community Design Advisory Group Helps Shape Bridge Lighting Themes

At their March meeting, the Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) shared valuable input with the project team on proposed lighting schemes and urban design elements for the new bridge. Members explored lighting possibilities and discussed thematic concepts, offering ideas that reflect community values. Many emphasized a preference for lighting inspired by the natural environment or Portland-specific celebrations—guidance that will help lighting experts craft a palette of nighttime options to present to the County.

The group also weighed in on urban design features, including creative opportunities to reuse historic bridge parts and incorporate art in the undercrossing areas on both sides of the river. Urban designers listened closely to what resonated with CDAG members and will integrate this feedback into ongoing design work.

CDAG meetings are open to the public, live-streamed, and recorded. The group meets at the Multnomah Building. To learn more or attend the June meeting, visit the [committee's web page](#).



Rendering of the “internal glow” bridge lighting concept, one of the themes shared at the March 20, 2025 CDAG meeting.

Help Secure Funding for the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge!

A safer, more resilient Burnside Bridge is within reach—we need your help voicing support for the project to help secure **several million dollars** in additional funding. Metro is currently accepting public input through **April 30, 2025**, on a proposed [Regional Flexible Fund bond](#), which could dedicate up to **\$88.5 million** to transit components of five vital infrastructure projects—including the **Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project**.

This Project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen a critical lifeline route that our region relies on every day. A seismically resilient Burnside Bridge will help ensure that in the event of a major earthquake, our region can respond quickly, recover effectively, and protect lives.

You can help make it a reality.

Visit [Metro’s Online Open House](#) to learn more about the bond proposal and submit your comments to support funding the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge.

Every comment counts. Let’s make sure our bridge is ready when we need it most.



Rendering of the new Burnside Bridge type, selected in 2024.

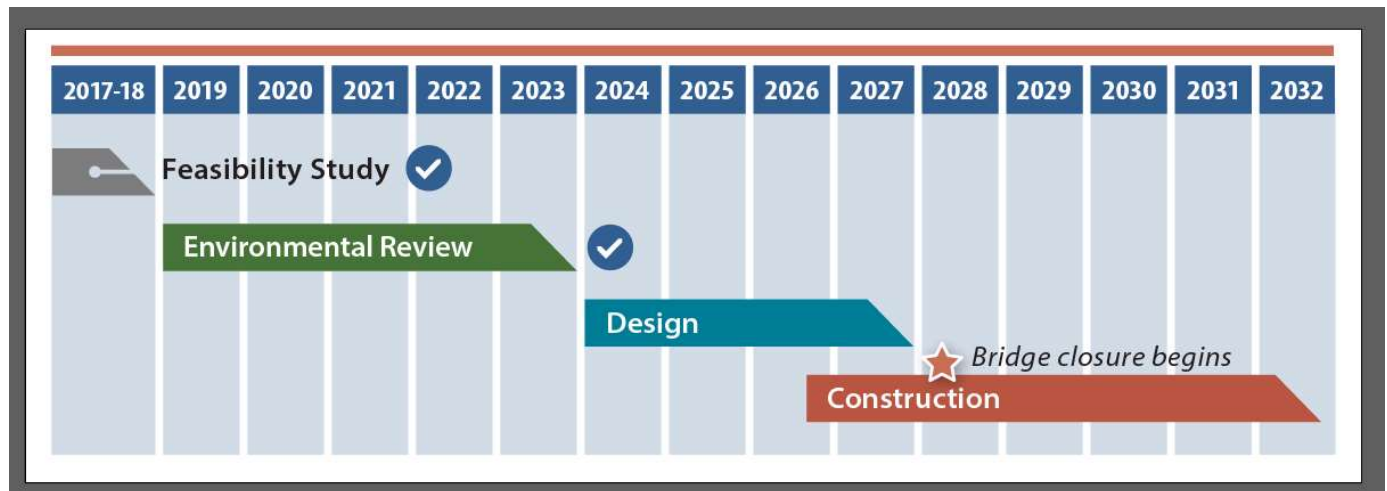
Design Phase Extended: Construction Now Set to Begin in 2028

Multnomah County has extended the Design Phase of the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project, with construction now anticipated to begin in 2028—a one-year shift from the original timeline. This adjustment allows the County to respond to uncertainty at the federal level that is impacting infrastructure projects nationwide while also providing additional time to refine the bridge design and explore cost-saving opportunities.

Despite the shift, the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge remains the County's top transportation priority. It has already secured significant local funding, enabling progress through the Design Phase to continue uninterrupted.

Over the next few years, a dedicated team of architects, engineers, planners, lighting specialists, contractors, and agency partners will focus on finalizing a design that is safe, resilient, and responsive to community needs.

Large infrastructure projects like this often span many years and require flexibility across changing conditions and leadership. The County is well-prepared for this reality and deeply appreciates the ongoing agency partnerships and community support that have helped move the project forward.

Updated anticipated timeline:

Out in the Community

Grant High School Students Dive into Earthquake Resilience

As part of the project's School Outreach and Engagement Program, the project team recently partnered with Grant High School to bring real-world learning into the classroom. Approximately 40–50 students in four Intro to Engineering classes participated in a hands-on educational experience focused on the science and engineering behind seismic resilience.

Students explored a range of topics, including earthquake simulation and testing, soil stability, environmental impacts, design, and mitigation strategies in large-scale construction projects. Inspired by these lessons, each student selected a topic to investigate further, developing independent projects to demonstrate their understanding and ideas.

In early April, the project team had the opportunity to hear student presentations, provide feedback, and facilitate discussions on their findings. The students really impressed the team with their curiosity, creativity, and thoughtful engagement—offering a glimpse into the next generation of engineers and problem-solvers.

Programs like this help connect students with real infrastructure challenges in their community, inspiring future careers and building awareness of the importance of resilient design.



Grant High School Intro to Engineering class learned about the EQRB project and then developed and presented projects on a related topic. These photos illustrate a few examples.

Project Showcased at Portland Art Museum Event

On February 2, 2025, the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project was featured at the Portland Art Museum's event, "Portland's Next Horizon: 7 Projects that Will Redefine the Central City." This sold-out gathering attracted over 600 attendees ready to learn about transformative initiatives shaping Portland's future.

Project team member and urban designer Carol Mayer-Reed, FASLA, described views of the bridge components, tower, and public spaces that will be featured in the EQRB project.

Engaging with the community through events like "Portland's Next Horizon" allows the project team to share progress and collaborate with other transformative projects to collectively enhance the resilience and vibrancy of Portland's Central City.

Some of the other projects presented included the OMSI District, Broadway Corridor, Green Loop, and Lloyd Center redevelopment.

Waterfront Park Foundation Testing Complete: Preparing for a Resilient Bridge

some unusual activity just north of the west end of the Burnside Bridge. As part of the project, crews constructed a 10-foot-diameter test shaft, a type of foundation, to evaluate how the new bridge supports will perform in real soil conditions.

This hands-on investigation helps engineers verify the soil's strength, stability, and behavior beneath the bridge site. It also allows the team to confirm whether a 10-foot diameter is appropriate for the final bridge drilled shaft foundations, a critical step in ensuring the bridge's seismic resilience.

On February 4, Multnomah County hosted a press event at the site, giving local news outlets an inside look at the process. Reporters toured the site, observed construction activity, and interviewed a project engineer to better understand the complexity and importance of this important pre-construction step.

With testing complete, crews are now adding the finishing touches to restore the park area to its original condition—preserving the landscaping and accessibility of the popular public space.

[Watch a timelapse video](#) of the process.



News media filming and conducting interviews at the test shaft site.

In the News!

[KATU](#): “Burnside Bridge project begins test foundation for earthquake protection”

[Oregonian](#): “Multnomah County is drilling a massive hole at Portland’s Waterfront Park ahead of Burnside Bridge rebuild”

[KGW](#): “Portland kicks off seismic tests for the new Burnside Bridge”

[KATU](#): “Crews dig deep hole in Waterfront Park to put new Burnside Bridge design to the test”

[Oregonian](#): “Uncertainty in federal funding to delay needed construction on Burnside Bridge”

[KATU](#): “Construction of new Burnside Bridge delayed due to uncertainty from Trump admin”

[KGW](#): “Burnside Bridge replacement project delays construction deadline to 2028”

Public participation is an essential part of a successful project. There are many ways to follow the project and stay engaged. We encourage you to regularly check the [website](#), [sign-up](#) for newsletters or [watch Community Design Advisory Group meetings](#).

If you would like the project team to brief your organization, or you would like to book an appointment during their office hours, please submit a request to: burnsidebridge@multco.us.

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