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To learn about soil composition, the project will build a test shaft in Waterfront Park

Starting in January and lasting through April 2025, crews will construct a 10-foot shaft (or foundation) just north of the west end of the bridge in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. It's an important step before construction, to help engineers know what's in the soil and how to best construct the safest and most structurally sound foundations.

The work area will be fenced in and contained within Tom McCall Waterfront Park. It will include the area under the Burnside Bridge and into the grassy area north of the bridge. Pedestrian and bike access will be rerouted around the work area either along the pedestrian path in Tom McCall Waterfront Park or along the west side of S.W. Naito Parkway. The bike/pedestrian path along the east side of S.W. Naito Parkway will remain closed for the duration of this work.

There won't be any vehicular detours, but at times, there will be rolling slowdowns. Flaggers will be on site directing traffic on S.W. Naito Parkway to allow for large equipment to access the area.

Once the work is finished, the park will be fully restored to its original form.



Community Design Advisory Group beginning review of detailed design elements

From late 2024 to spring 2025, the Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) will start reviewing various design elements for the new bridge. The group will provide the project team input as the design progresses, ensuring community values are represented throughout the process. Topics for discussion include things like tower shaping, bridge lighting, pier cladding, the west approach, finish/color and on-bridge furnishings.

Currently the architectural team is working with the engineers, contractors, landscape designers, lighting experts and the CDAG to advance the aesthetic and architectural elements of the bridge. Watch or attend the [upcoming CDAG meeting](#) on January 23rd to learn about the progress of their work.

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



(Image caption: Community Design Advisory Group meeting)

Envision Sustainability Program

The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project is participating in the [Envision Sustainability Program](#). This program provides a framework for building sustainable infrastructure. It's made up of 65 sustainability and resiliency criteria. The program helps public and private entities build infrastructure that addresses climate change, public health needs, environmental justice, job creation and economic recovery. There are four levels of achievement: verified, silver, gold and platinum, which is the highest of the four levels. The County highly values sustainability and climate resilience and is pursuing a platinum Envision rating for this project. The project team is working closely with the County's Office of Sustainability to inform this work. They are also briefing and getting feedback from the County's Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation along the way. Here are some of the ways the project is already meeting Envision goals:

- Encouraging sustainable transportation (wider and protected bike/pedestrian facilities)
- Enhancing transit access
- Improving access and safety in a historically disadvantaged neighborhood
- Protecting surface and groundwater quality

- Utilizing construction methods to protect migrating wildlife
 - Providing local jobs and setting goals for hiring disadvantaged businesses, women and minorities
 - Providing community involvement in decision making
 - Building earthquake resilient infrastructure
-

Out in the Community

Schools Outreach

On November 1st, the EQRB team hosted the Reynolds Learning Academy trade program. The students met at the Multnomah Building where the project team gave students an overview of the project and future work opportunities during construction. Students learned about the existing bridge and how the new bridge will provide a resilient connection during and after a major earthquake. Following the presentation, students got a tour of the bridge and got to see the bridge open to see how it currently functions. Several students shared it was the best event they'd been to and expressed interest in future bridge tours with the County.

Skatepark Panel

On October 29th, the project team participated in a live panel discussion with the local skating community at McMenamins Kennedy School. The panel discussion was after a viewing of a documentary about a do-it-yourself (DIY) skatepark in Los Angeles. The project team talked about the future of the Burnside Skatepark which is under the east approach of the Burnside Bridge. The team shared that the Burnside Skatepark is highly valued by the County and that the project has worked hard to create and select a design that will allow the Burnside Skatepark to remain intact during and after construction. The project team then fielded questions from the crowd.



(Image caption: Skatepark movie premier panel discussion)

Contracting Community Outreach

In preparation for the Construction Phase, the project team has been working with various organizations and businesses in the construction and trades industries. In an effort to spread the word about contracting opportunities with the project, the County and project contractors have attended a number of activities including:

- [Professional Business Development Group's](#) (PBDG) holiday gala
- PBDG's annual BBQ
- [2024 Regional Contracting Forum](#)
- [APEX Accelerator Program](#) event
- "Doing Business with ODOT" event
- [Nation Association of Minority Contractors](#) tradeshow
- [Constructing Hope Apprenticeship Program](#) gala
- [Oregon Tradeswomen](#) facility visit

Hiring a diverse workforce is an important County value. The project has established goals for hiring Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, women and minorities. Learn more about contracting opportunities [here](#).

Stay Involved

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.

Get the newsletter

In the News!

[Oregonian](#): “Multnomah County commissioners greenlight design for \$900M-plus earthquake-ready Burnside Bridge” quotes Chair Jessica Vega Pederson, Commissioner Lori Stegmann and Commissioner Sharon Meieran; cites Transportation Division Director Jon Henrichsen; references the Board of County Commissioners.

[Business Tribune \(Pamplin\)](#): “Portland Architecture: The new Burnside Bridge — half iconic, half flat” references the Board of County Commissioners.

[OPB](#): “Multnomah County commissioners approve ‘inverted Y’ design for Burnside Bridge upgrade” quotes Transportation Division Director Jon Henrichsen; references the Board of County Commissioners.

FUN FACT:

The Burnside Skatepark started in 1990 as a homegrown do-it-yourself (DIY) project by local skaters. It was the first DIY skatepark ever built during a time when there were less than 20 free public skateparks nationally. Volunteers utilized leftover concrete from a County project and brought in their own resources, manpower, grit and ambition. The original builders worked little by little to create what is now a world-renowned skatepark under the east approach of the Burnside Bridge in Portland. While the park was originally built without permission, in 1993, the City of Portland officially sanctioned the park, recognizing its value to the community, allowing it to remain on city-owned property. The park has grabbed attention from famous skaters including Tony Hawk,

Register. The EQRB project has worked closely with the Burnside Skatepark Board to ensure the park is protected and remains intact during and after construction of the new bridge.



(Burnside Skatepark)



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