

[View this email in your browser.](#)



An Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge

Our Work Continues

During this time of unprecedented impact to work, school, daily routines and travel due to COVID-19, Multnomah County is focused on its mission which includes prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable and promoting health and safety for all.

While our daily lives have been impacted, the threat of a major earthquake has not gone away. In fact, it is even more important than ever to make sure we are resilient to the next major disaster. That is why we are continuing to push forward with creating a seismically resilient river crossing in downtown Portland. The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project team is adapting to the changing circumstances to maintain progress on this high-priority project while project staff, partners and stakeholders work remotely.

Multnomah County is committed to continuing to work with our agency and community partners and meaningfully engaging with stakeholders. Read on for project updates since the last round of public outreach in 2019 and news about upcoming work in 2020.

Thank You for Participating!

We want to extend a big thank you to all who participated in our online open house or in-person events during 2019. Community input guided key decisions and is helping to inform the environmental study and identify a preferred alternative.

In 2019 the Board of County Commissioners used public input and recommendations from the Community Task Force to make these key decisions:

- Removed the high fixed bridge alternative from further study because of the disruption and impact it would have to the local community.
- Established roadway cross sections to study.
- Established evaluation criteria the project will use to help identify a preferred alternative.

Fall 2019 Outreach – What We Heard



Outreach conducted in summer/fall 2019 included 51 in-person briefings to stakeholders, four community tabling events, discussion groups with historically under-served communities held in six languages, and an online open house and survey that received over 800 responses.

Feedback from the outreach process included:

- Strong support for creating a downtown river crossing that will withstand a large earthquake.
- Support for the draft evaluation criteria that will be used to compare alternatives.
- Strong agreement to remove the high fixed bridge alternative from further consideration.
- Comments to prioritize public transit, protected bike lanes and room for pedestrians.
- Differing opinions and concerns regarding whether to build a temporary bridge for use during construction.
- From participants reached through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion outreach: general agreement with overall themes but more frequent emphasis on those related to safety, economics, and cost.

You can download the [2019 Public Engagement Summary](#) on the [Project Library](#) web page for more detailed information about outreach efforts and what we learned between January and September 2019.

Summer 2020 Outreach

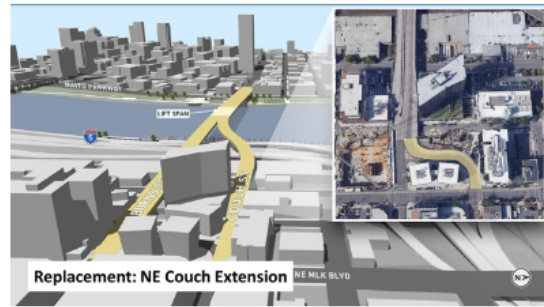
This summer we will share early findings of the environmental review and seek your feedback. This includes information about the benefits and impacts of each alternative, a recommendation on which one to design and build (a Preferred Alternative) and what to do about traffic during construction.

The Community Task Force has been working to develop and apply evaluation criteria to help make a recommendation on a Preferred Alternative for the public to review and share input on.

After getting your feedback, we will review and incorporate it into a draft Environmental Impact Statement and share that with you in early 2021.

Below are the four Build Alternatives we are studying, along with a No-Build (or do nothing) Alternative.





In early 2020, the In-Kind Replacement alternative expanded to include two design options, a conventional (Short Span) bridge alternative and a Long Span bridge alternative. The Long Span alternative is a variation of the conventional (Short Span) alternative that requires fewer support columns than the current bridge. Learn more about the [Bridge Alternatives](#).

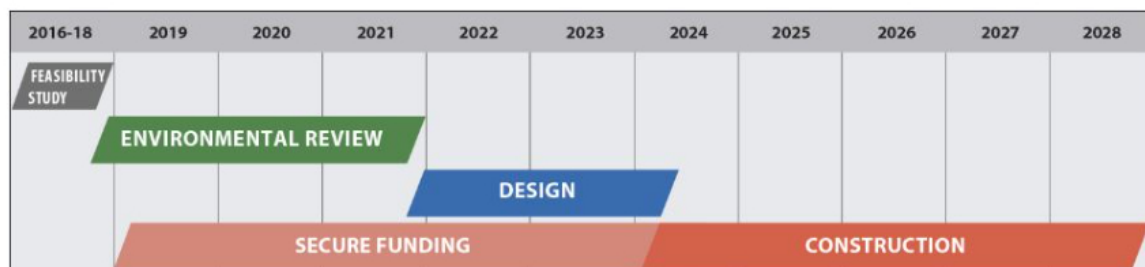
Notice of Intent

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI) to announce that we plan to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project.

The NOI provides an opportunity for additional comments on the project's statement of purpose and need, range of alternatives, and issues to be studied in the EIS. The NOI also marks the official start of the two-year timeline for FHWA and Multnomah County to complete the EIS process as mandated by the [One Federal Decision](#) executive order. The draft EIS is expected to be issued next year in January 2021 and the final EIS and a Record of Decision (ROD) are expected to be completed by the end of 2021. Final design and construction phases will follow the Record of Decision.

To learn more about the NOI and this process, please visit our [Environmental Review](#) page online. If you have a comment about the study you would like us to consider, please share your thoughts through our [comment form](#).

Project Schedule



For more information visit:

BurnsideBridge.org



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Multnomah County Attn: EQRB · 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. · Portland, OR 97214 · USA

