

Multnomah County's First Seismically Resilient Downtown Bridge



Right now, none of downtown Portland's Willamette River vehicular bridges will be immediately usable after a major earthquake. Multnomah County is leading an effort to replace the current Burnside Bridge with one that can withstand a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. It's one of the largest earthquake resilience projects in Oregon.

Located on a regionally established lifeline route, it's critical that the bridge is still standing after a major earthquake, as it will be used by first responders to get to those in need. It will be a beacon for safety, emergency response and recovery. The new bridge will also provide safer, more accessible multimodal transportation facilities in the heart of Portland, serving the community for the next 100+ years.

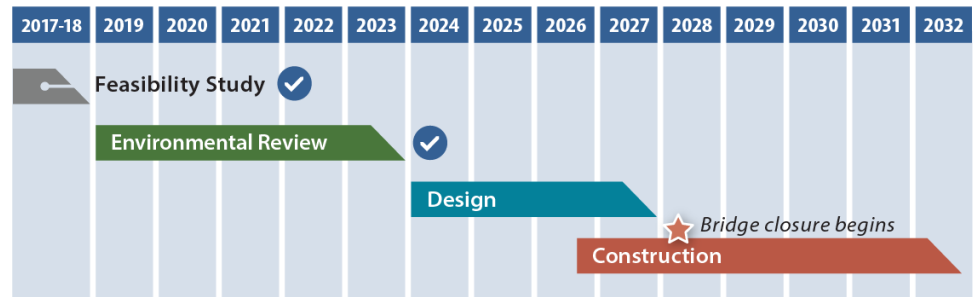


Schedule

The Design Phase will last approximately three years.

Early construction activities are anticipated to start in late 2026, followed by the full bridge closure and reconstruction starting

in 2028, pending full project funding. The County is actively pursuing grants and other funding opportunities at the local, state and federal levels to fully fund the project. The new Burnside Bridge could open as early as 2032 if the funding is secured.



Background

The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project began in 2016 with a Feasibility Study. The project studied more than 100 options including tunnels, ferries, double-decker bridges and other bridge options.

From that study, four bridge alternatives were recommended for further evaluation in the Environmental Review Phase (2019-2023).

After a robust analysis of the impacts of the four alternatives, and with input from the community, agencies and regulatory bodies, the Replacement Long Span was selected as the Preferred Alternative.



Design Phase

The project is now in the Design Phase. During this Phase the project team works closely with engineers, architects, contractors, agencies and regulatory bodies to analyze bridge form, architectural and aesthetic features, mechanical and structural components, constructability issues, costs and long-term maintenance considerations.

In summer 2024, after robust community engagement and ten committee meetings, the project team selected the Inverted Y bridge type design for the east approach, an important first step in the design process.

Multnomah County values the community's input throughout this project. The community is encouraged to follow the progress of the project and weigh in at key milestones.

Stay up to date!

Visit the project website for the latest events, contact a team member or to sign-up for the project newsletter.

www.BurnsideBridge.org