



Multnomah County is creating an earthquake-ready downtown river crossing.

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March 21, 2019

Public Involvement Plan

1. Project Overview

Portland's aging downtown bridges are not expected to withstand a major earthquake. That is why Multnomah County is taking the lead on making at least one crossing earthquake ready. Located in the heart of downtown, the Burnside Bridge is a regionally established lifeline route across the Willamette River.

Having completed a Feasibility Study in 2018, the next step is to study and understand the potential environmental impacts of four bridge replacement and rehabilitation alternatives.

BACKGROUND

This process began in 2015 when the County selected the Burnside Bridge as a priority due to its role on the Burnside Street regional lifeline route, providing a key connection across the Willamette River. The challenge is that the current Burnside Bridge will not survive a major earthquake which makes a seismic retrofit or construction of a new earthquake-safe Burnside Bridge critical.

Over the course of 2016-2018, through a robust engagement process and technical evaluation, the Feasibility Study extensively screened over 100 bridge replacement and rehabilitation options. In November of 2018, the study identified the best range of options (four total) to carry into the next phase of the project, an Environmental Review.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

For the Environmental Review phase, the County will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze and document the effects of the four alternatives on people and the built and natural environment.

Public input will inform the Draft EIS, which will identify the preferred alternative by the end of 2020. The Final EIS and a Record of Decision are expected by the fall of 2021. Following the Environmental Review process, design work and construction are anticipated to occur from 2022-2028.

2. Public Involvement Goals

Four primary outreach goals will guide the community and stakeholder engagement process:



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Build Awareness: Build awareness and share information through regular, meaningful and consistent project communications, about the important role this project plays in creating an earthquake ready river crossing in downtown Portland.

Ensure Transparency: Inform all stakeholders and community of how the project team has thoroughly considered their feedback, interests, issues and concerns in project solutions and transparently communicate how project decisions are being made.

Be Inclusive: Provide equitable, inclusive and accessible opportunities for stakeholders and community to influence and shape the project by reducing participation barriers, ensuring culturally responsive practices and offering diverse ways for all people to participate in project conversations.

Enable Collaboration: Engage with agencies, project stakeholders and county departments to build authentic relationships and secure cross-government coordination, commitment, alignment and industry readiness, to realize the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge in the future.

3. Stakeholders and Areas of Interest or Concern

The project team will build on outreach conducted during the Feasibility Study and continue to engage a broad range of stakeholders. The following table identifies key stakeholder groups and topic areas of the environmental study that may be of interest or concern to them. A more detailed list of stakeholder organizations and contacts can be found in the project stakeholder list.

Potential Areas of Interest or Concern	Stakeholder Groups																					
	Drivers	Freight	Cyclists	Pedestrians	Transit users	People with disabilities	Low income & homeless	Social services	People of Color	Native American	Non-English speaking	Senior citizens	Contracting community	Property owners	Developers	Businesses	Residents	Historic preservationists	Agencies	Park users	River users	Environmental pres.
Land Use							x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Economics		x						x					x	x	x	x	x		x		x	
Right-of-Way							x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Transportation (Traffic/Mobility/Access)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Construction	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x





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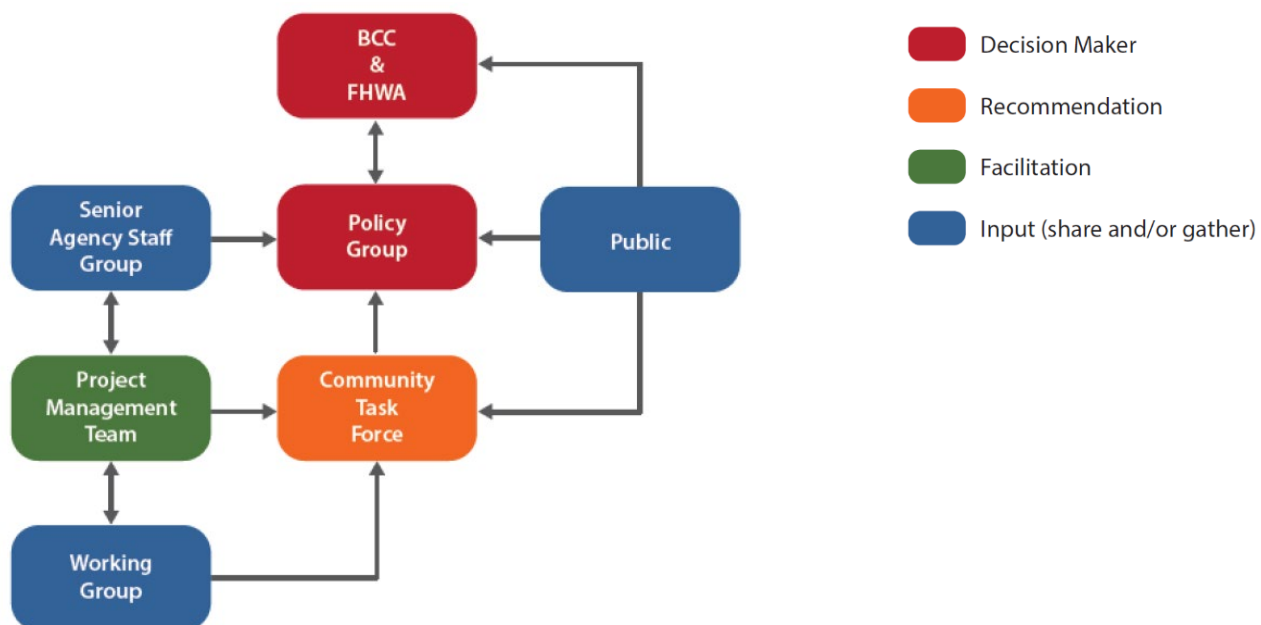
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River navigation																		x		x		
Neighborhoods and social environment						x	x	x	x	x	X			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Environmental Justice						x	x	x	x	x		x							x			x
Equity						x	x	x	x	x	X	x							x			
Visual Resources (Aesthetics)														x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Parks and Recreation			x	x			x	x									x	x	x	x		x
Archaeological and Historic Resources										x								x	x	x		x
Public Services						x	x	x		x	x	X					x		x			
Utilities																			x			
Soils and Geology																			x			x
Hazardous Materials																			x			x
Air Quality														x	x			x		x		x
Noise and Vibration							x	x						x	x	x	x		x			x
Waters										x								x		x		x
Hydraulics																			x		x	x
Stormwater																			x			x
Vegetation																			x			x
Wildlife										x									x			x
Endangered Species										x									x			x
Costs																			x			
Sustainability			x	x	x					x									x			x
Climate Change			x	x	x														x			x
Public Health			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x		x	x	x

4. Decision-Making Structure

Decision-making will be supported and informed by broad stakeholder and public outreach as described in this Plan. Three project committees will inform and guide the decision-making process: Policy Group (PG), Community Task Force (CTF) and Senior Agency Staff Group (SASG). In addition, stakeholder working groups will provide technical and subject matter insight into the project. A Project Management Team (PMT) will support and facilitate the decision-making process.



POLICY GROUP: ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCY EXECUTIVES

- Set policy framework
- Represent issues of agency or constituents
- Communicate progress to fellow elected/agency officials
- Review input from CTF and public
- Make decisions at process milestones (which are referred to local, state and federal government for approval)

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE: COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ADVOCACY GROUP AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

- Represent constituents' perspectives and input
- Communicate project information to constituents



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- Prepare for and attend meetings
- Work to develop consensus recommendations to PG at each process milestone

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM: COUNTY, ODOT, FHWA, CITY, METRO

- Manage scope, schedule, budget
- Direct, produce, and provide quality assurance for technical and public involvement work
- Staff support to PG, SASG, CTF and working groups

WORKING GROUPS: AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES BASED ON AREA OF EXPERTISE

- Provide detailed input/work products to PMT and CTF in specific areas of expertise

5. Outreach and Communications Tools

The following outreach and communications tools are recommended to reach diverse project audiences.

Project Audiences	Primary Outreach and Communications Tools												
	Interviews	Briefings	Focus groups/ working groups	Workshops	Committee representation	Open houses	Email updates	Events (i.e. Markets)	Surveys	Website / Online tools (i.e. videos)	Social media	Newsletters / mailers	Translated materials
Elected Officials		X			X		X						
County residents					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Region residents					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Businesses		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Low income	X		X		X		X				X	X	X
Minority groups	X		X		X		X				X	X	X
Disabled	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pedestrians			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cyclists			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Drivers			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Freight		X	X										

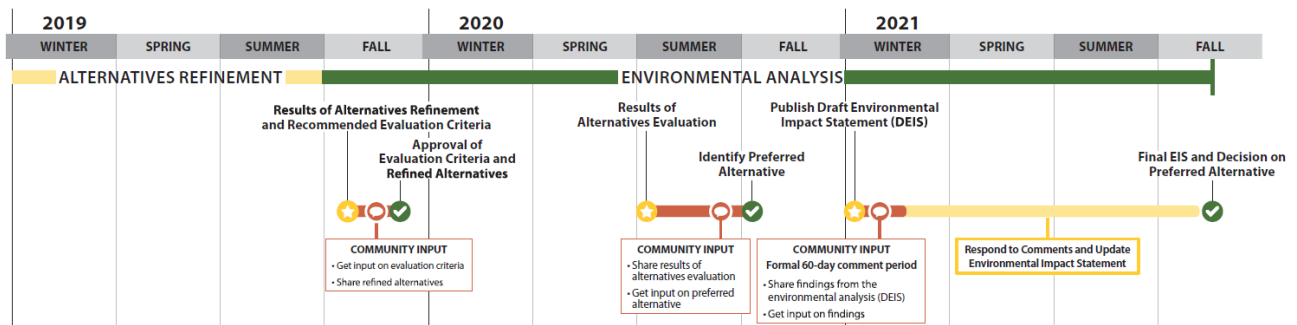


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Transit users			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
River users					X		X		X	X			
Interest groups	X	X	X		X		X			X			
Community Orgs.	X	X			X	X	X			X			
Old Town	X				X	X	X	X	X			X	X
East Side					X	X			X	X			
West Side					X	X			X	X			
Visitors								X		X			

6. Outreach Approach and Timeline

Involving the public in a meaningful way is central to the outreach approach for this project. Being mindful of the community’s time, the project team aims to perform outreach activities in a targeted and intentional way by tying each round of outreach to a key milestone. The public will be engaged with the intent to provide targeted feedback about elements of the project to inform and influence a key decision point. Each decision point will mark the closing of that round of outreach.



7. Evaluation

Objective	Indicator of success	Tool to measure objective	When will this be measured?
1. Project information is clearly presented and is provided in a timely way to enable outreach participation	a. Information is comprehensive and <5% of participants in any outreach effort request additional information not already provided by the project team	Online monitoring Event participation Comment log	End of outreach rounds
	b. Levels of feedback and participation from Diversity Equity and Inclusion outreach activities are proportionate or higher than their corresponding demographics in the project area	Dashboard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at multi-lingual events Attendance at outreach events for specific audiences Top website translations 	End of outreach rounds
2. Project information is highly accessible to the range of audience needs	a. Project information and invitations to participate are provided in advance of meetings and public participation opportunities	Event calendars Project schedules	End of outreach rounds End of events
	b. Project materials are translated into the top three spoken languages, and languages that have historical links to key communities in the project area (Chinatown and Japantown) and materials are displayed at accessible and familiar community locations	Comment log Top website translations	Monthly
	c. Project materials will be designed for optimal screen reader	Comment log % web visits on mobile	Outreach rounds

Objective	Indicator of success	Tool to measure objective	When will this be measured?
	compatibility and mobile accessibility		
3. Outcomes and feedback from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion activities are communicated and shared across all working groups to embed equity considerations throughout project decision making	a. Recurring meeting agenda item	Meeting agendas Project dashboard	Monthly Project Management Team meetings Committee meetings Working Groups (including Equity Work Group) and technical team
4. In person participation opportunities are provided at accessible locations and venues on both sides of the river and in geographic locations	a. In-person participation opportunities are scheduled throughout the region and events are scheduled on each side of the river and throughout the project area	Dashboard: • Engagement locations	End of outreach rounds
	b. In person participation opportunities are scheduled in proximity to public transit services to help ensure participants using diverse modes can access events	Dashboard: • Event Sign-in Sheets • Engagement locations <i>(zip code and how did you travel here questions)</i>	Events Workshops Committee Meetings Open Houses
5. Track how key engagement approaches have been	c. Engagement approaches identified in this plan are tracked and achieved	DEI Engagement Approaches Tracking log <i>(see Appendix E.)</i>	Monthly updates are made to tool and shared as part of Evaluation Objective #3 of this Plan



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Objective	Indicator of success	Tool to measure objective	When will this be measured?
implemented and achieved			