

# UDAWG Consensus-Building from Meeting #2 “What We Heard Summary”

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<b>Project:</b>	Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, October 14, 2020
<b>To:</b>	Megan Neill, Multnomah County – Project Manager
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## OVER-ARCHING THEMES:

### Portland Values

- Optimistic future; a growing & enduring city
- Resilient
- Authentic place that strives to demonstrate its values & quality of life
- Citizens are free to express themselves
- City is accessible to everyone
- Known for leadership in land use, transportation, urban design, public spaces & sustainability
- Honor traditions while looking forward

### Characteristics of Portland

- Portland appears to be subtle & self-assured, rather than audacious
- Experience is about discovery & the urban realm rather than large-scaled landmarks
- Significance of the river: a defining feature in a city that has reclaimed its river & waterfront
- A collection of different bridge types; a “City of Bridges”
- A city of distinct neighborhoods

### Physical Connectivity

- East to west for all modes
- Bridge to ground at bridgeheads, Eastbank Esplanade & Waterfront Park
- Bridge to river
- Multi-modal is of importance: emergency, pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, & transit users
- Equal access

### Visual & Experiential Connectivity

- Existing expansive, 360-degree panorama of cityscape
- Open & transparent views convey sense of community
- A gathering place; occasionally used as civic space
- Unpleasant spaces below deck on both sides & perceptions of safety
- Bridge is located at a curve in the river, enabling long views to north & south

- View of linear parks
- Enframed view to West Hills
- Views down to surface of river
- Views & sounds of freeway system
- Perceptions of personal safety relative to traffic & speed of traffic
- Bridgehead architecture & park trees as enframement devices
- Series of city landmarks & bridges surrounding it

### **Relationship to River**

- River history; a "River City"
- History of navigation since time immemorial
- Transportation
- Commerce
- Fishing
- Recreation
- Concern for river ecology, fisheries & clean water
- Upland urban development patterns based on river
- Fluid dynamics of river: bridge piers as a necessary cut-water device
- Qualities of the river conveys a mood

### **Bridge Site & Location**

- Episodic sequence of unfolding spaces
- Contrasts of east & west neighborhoods
- Unifying urban characteristics
- Context of city landmarks immediately surrounding it:
  - Oregon sign, US Bank Tower (Big Pink), OCC Towers, Moda Center, The Yard
- Context of city bridges as distinctive landmarks:
  - Fremont, Broadway, Steel, Morrison, Hawthorne, Marquam, Tilikum

## **ASPIRATIONS/OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Desired Bridge Experience**

- Safe & resilient
- Openness & transparency
- Separation of peds & bikes from vehicular traffic
- Importance of looking at it & being on it
- Mostly viewed in elevation
- Underneath spaces are programmable & feel safe
- Recognizes duality of context--east & west
- Human scale & tactile qualities
- Influences of geology & physics
- Places to linger
- Works well for all modes
- Noise reduction

### **Bridge Design Opportunities**

- Bridge represents forward-thinking: sets tone for next 100 years
- Timeless in design yet represents its era
- Question of symmetry, asymmetry & balance
- A celebration; a beacon
- Memorable, distinctive lighting
- Unique bridge that opens—exposed mechanisms or not
- Appropriate scale for the location
- Bridge cross-section is important
- All modes considered, especially pedestrians & cyclists

### **Urban Design Opportunities**

- Response to context
- Underscore differences of east vs. west bridgeheads
- And/or continuity
- Appropriate scale in relation to land elements
- Enframement of views to the west as city grows
- Underside important & deserving of attention
- An “urban roof”
- Accessible structures that connect down to grade
- Related improvements to adjacent streets, Eastbank Esplanade & Waterfront Park