



Multnomah County is
creating an earthquake ready
downtown river crossing.

BETTER – SAFER – CONNECTED

Memo

Date:	Monday, October 05, 2020
Project:	Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge
To:	Metro's Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation
From:	Multnomah County
Subject:	Project Briefing

Purpose of Briefing:

The [Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge](#) project team will provide an informational project status update to JPACT at their October 15th, 2020 meeting. The presentation will include a brief overview of the following:

- Project purpose, timeline and funding
- Range of Bridge Alternatives being studied in the Environmental Impact Statement
- Recommended Preferred Alternative – includes preferred bridge alternative and preferred traffic management option during construction
- Community outreach and feedback
- Upcoming key milestones and next steps

Project Background:

Portland's aging downtown bridges are not expected to withstand a major earthquake. That's why Multnomah County is taking the lead on making at least one crossing earthquake ready.

Located in the heart of downtown and on a regionally established lifeline route, it is critical that the Burnside Bridge is still standing after a major earthquake. A resilient Burnside Bridge will help our community recover after a major earthquake and provide a long-term river crossing that supports our transportation needs for the next century.

Over 100 options were studied during this project's Feasibility Study Phase (2016-2018), including tunnels, ferries and other bridge options. From that study, four bridge alternatives were recommended for further study in an Environmental Impact Statement, which is currently underway. Recently the project's Community Task Force recommended the Replacement Long Span as the Preferred Alternative to move forward into design and then construction. The recommendation must be further studied before it can be approved by Multnomah County and the Federal Highway Administration in 2021.