



Multnomah County is
creating an earthquake ready
downtown river crossing.

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Memo

Date:	Thursday, February 04, 2021
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 February 18, 2021 meeting. The presentation will include a brief overview of the following:

- Project purpose, timeline and funding
- Notice of [Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Preferred Alternative](#) – includes preferred bridge alternative and preferred traffic management option during construction
- [Bridge Type Selection](#) phase update
- Process for 2021 RTP Adoption of Preferred Bridge Alternative – Replacement Long Span
- 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 (EIS). The Replacement Long Span alternative was recommended by the Community Task Force and Policy Group. Responses from an online public survey showed 88% support for the recommendation. The 45-day comment period on the Draft EIS will begin on February 5th and last through March 22nd, 2021. After comments are received and addressed, the recommendation will go to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and the Federal Highway Administration for final approval in fall 2021.