

Funding Bills 33-23 and 33-01
Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge
Legislative Hearing – March 23, 5-6:30 p.m.
Written Testimony

Members of the Committee, please find the following bullets in support of the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project:

- My name is Steve Wood. I am providing this written testimony on behalf of Stacy and Witbeck which is part of the Burnside Bridge Partners team. We are a group of three heavy civil contractors that support this project and will compete for this project once the RFP is advertised by Multnomah County to select a construction team. Our team specializes in technical bridge construction and alternative delivery contracting.
- Without question this project is needed to support the Portland community by providing a safe lifeline across the Willamette River in the aftermath of a significant earthquake. We all know that critical infrastructure must be upgraded to withstand such events and to provide the community access to emergency services.
- Plus, as contractors, we like to build projects that benefit the community at large, especially a project like the EQRB.
- I would like to commend Multnomah County and other project partners for their selection of the CM/GC contract mechanism. This type of contract allows for early-on collaboration during preconstruction and well into construction between the county, contractor, subcontractors and trade partners, and the final designer. This will also allow for creative sustainable subcontract packaging to benefit small and underutilized businesses in Oregon and provide further opportunities for a more diverse workforce.
- The County will have a robust Project Labor Agreement that has specific goals for ensuring that many of the jobs created by this project will go to minorities, women, and establish apprenticeship opportunities that can flourish on the project. All contractors that participate on this project will abide by the requirements of the PLA and will directly contribute to these efforts.
- Pre-apprenticeship workforce development programs are becoming more important than ever to create the diverse workforce that can support a project like this. Preparatory efforts will begin during the preconstruction phase to maximize apprenticeship utilization and training opportunities during construction. This project will not only support jobs for existing trades people but will help make an impact in supporting workforce development through these apprenticeship efforts to create a future generation of people that will have family wage jobs.
- Provided our team is successful, we look forward to the start to construction in 2026 which coincides with the bridges 100th year anniversary.
- In closing, we in the construction contracting community, strongly urge the Legislature to support funding bills 33-23 and 33-01 to ensure a resilient Burnside lifeline bridge downtown, and the creation of many new jobs.