



To: Multnomah County
From: Portland Freight Advisory Committee
Date: 3/2/2020
Re: Freight Considerations and the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge

Burnside Draft EIS team,

The Portland Freight Advisory Committee appreciates the leadership of Multnomah County in working to develop an Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge. The Burnside Bridge provides a key connection in Portland's Central City and will play an important role following a Cascadia earthquake.

The Portland Freight Advisory Committee has two major recommendations regarding the recommended project:

- 1) **In addition to the EQRBB handling normal freight loads during regular operation, the Burnside Bridge should ensure that large over-dimensional vehicles can use the bridge after a Cascadia event.**

There are currently no bridges in Portland's Central City that were designed sufficiently to remain operational after a major Cascadia event. Given the likelihood that the EQRBB is the only remaining bridge after a Cascadia event, it is critical that the bridge be able to handle over-weight and over-dimensional vehicles that will be essential in responding to critical life, safety and earthquake response needs. The Portland Freight Committee appreciates that the EQRBB NEPA documents call for designs that will allow for over-weight and over-dimensional vehicles.

- 2) **The EQRBB should be designed to be effectively and efficiently used by freight.**

The Portland Freight Committee supports designing the EQRBB to ensure the efficient and safe travel of vehicles. The Burnside Bridge provides an important link in both the city and regional network. Portland's Central City hosts a high volume of people driving, taking transit, walking, and rolling. We support a final design that is consistent with the safe and efficient freight movement – including access to the bridge for the larger intermodal network.

New traffic signals on the bridge should be interconnected with the bridge lift and the nearest land-based signal. Freight travel time reliability is key to freight logistics and timely deliveries to Portland businesses and industries. Synchronized signal operations and minimizing freight travel delays will help Portland businesses remain competitive and prosperous.