

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Equity Advisory Group (EAG) Meeting Summary

Date and Time: 10/18/2021 – 5:30 pm PST

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Live

Concurrent YouTube viewers: 7

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization
IBR Staff	
Brent Hamlin	Technical Support
Chris Lepe	IBR Equity Panel
Emilee Thomas Peralta	IBR Equity Team
Greg Johnson	IBR Program Administrator
Jake Warr	IBR Equity Lead
Dr. Roberta Hunte	EAG Facilitator
Johnell Bell	IBR Principal Equity Officer
Fabiola Casas	IBR Equity Team
EAG Members	
Alicia Sojourner	City of Vancouver
Hai That Ho Ton	Community member
John Gardner	TriMet
Jonathan Eder	Port of Vancouver
Karyn Kameroff	Community member

Attendees	Organization
Lily Copenagle	Community member/NAACP Portland
Mark Harrington	SW Washington RTC
Masha Egorenko	IRCO Slavic & Eastern European Center
Matt Serres	Disability Rights Oregon
Matthew Hines	Community member
Megan Marie Johnson	Community member
Monica Tellez-Fowler	C-Tran
Caitlin Reff	PBOT
Nina Jones	WSDOT
Sebrina Owens-Wilson	Metro
Shona Carter	Community Foundation of SW Washington
Steve Nakana	Port of Portland

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome & Outcomes

Dr. Roberta Hunte, EAG Meeting Facilitator

Dr. Hunte welcomed the group, reviewed the technical instructions for the meeting, and stated the agenda.

Program Administrator Update

Greg Johnson, IBR Program Administrator

Greg provided an overview of a recent public rollout regarding design options and screening criteria and noted thanks to the group for applying an equity lens to this work. The design options will help define what the IBR solution looks like, what type of high-capacity transit, how many lanes going across the bridge, and bridge interchange layout. The answers to the public rollout will be determined in January 2022.

Greg stated a highlight from a recent Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) visit with Nuria Fernandez. Nuria's visit included a tour of the bridge and highlighted some of the issues to making the I-5 bridge area a multimodal corridor.

Greg and Johnell Bell, IBR Principal Equity Officer, were asked to participate and make a presentation about the IBR program equity efforts at the National Small Business Conference. They received questions regarding use of the IBR equity framework as a model for other projects in the country. Greg also provided an update that the technical team is pouring through data looking at modeling and how we are going to get to IBR solutions. Meetings have occurred weekly with transit agencies to discuss what the high-capacity transit mode will be.

At an upcoming Executive Steering Group meeting the group will be rolling out a number of design options that will become public for the first time. The group is collecting universal views and ideas for design options to consider for the IBR solution. The modeling and screening will be putting priorities on things that the team deems to be important. The group is aiming for an IBR solution early next year.

Jake Warr, Equity Lead, requested Greg explain what the IBR solution is.

Greg: IBR solution is the 4 pillars of what the team will build. The IBR solution sets boundaries or guardrails of what will be built. It answers 4 questions.

- How many lanes will be in the corridor (3 thru lanes to the south and 3 thru lanes to the north, with a yet-to-be determined number of auxiliary lanes to handle ramp traffic & keep it separate from thru traffic)
- What type of high-capacity transit will be included in this program (2 basic modes: bus rapid transit or light rail- one or the other or a combo of the two modes)?
- Will there be a full, partial, or interchange or no interchange directly off I-5 onto Hayden Island? If partial or no change, Hayden Island will have to be accessed from Marine Drive which. Interest by Island, freight haulers use this corridor to access Port of Portland.
- Replace or rehab the North Portland Harbor Bridge that carries I-5 from the south end of Hayden Island to North Portland. The last program had planned to rehab and retrofit it for seismic compatibility 15 years ago. There is a critical competent to some of the floating homes that may be impacted by either one of the solutions.

QUESTIONS

EAG Member: Do they have the infrastructure in place as part of the IBR solution to provide physical renderings for people that are blind or low vision?

Greg: The program is working with design team on renderings that will give options to the type of bridge and potential architect treatments that are made that to serve people that are blind or low vision.

IBR Climate Framework

Sarah Ogier, Principal Climate Officer

Sarah began by thanking the group and public for their time and contributions.

Sarah shared that climate matters – Climate is an important topic at the local, state, and national levels. A foundational component of the IBR program is a commitment and priority to equity and climate considerations and smart actions. Real impacts of climate change affecting systems involve temperature extremes, heatwaves, water availability, extreme precipitation, impacts of biodiversity and ecosystems, forest impacts, sea levels rise, marine life degradation, coral reef impacts, heatwave impacts, food shortages, economic impacts, and droughts.

Sarah then shared information about ways Climate and Equity can intersect. Some examples of how communities may experience climate impacts include:

- Disproportionate impacts on specific populations and places
- Magnified impacts when compounded with other disparities
- Mobility and ability to relocate /evacuate
- Climate vulnerable lands sometimes equal affordable lands
- Climate migration can strain existing housing supply and other community resources
- Climate action/mitigation measures may have disproportionate benefits or burdens

IBR Climate Framework – Two main categories of climate consideration:

- Reducing Climate Impacts
 - o Transportation options – being climate mindful in transportation options. In IBR program designs, primary focus will be reducing emissions, improving transportation efficiency, and minimizing travel demand

- Construction – reducing construction-based emissions through methods and materials, equipment and vehicles, sourcing locally to reduce transport, and zero waste goals for demolition
- Maintenance and Operations – Reduce emissions associated with maintenance and operations
- Climate Resilience
 - Environmental Change – Design for performance in a range of environments and conditions resulting from evolving climate
 - Behavioral change – Consider how climate might change future growth and population centers

Consider Offsets and Equity Nexus Connections

- Offsets – Offset unavoidable emissions
- Equity and how it is incorporated

Problems and challenges trying to solve from a design climate perspective:

- Current system presents challenges from a design perspective: Low or no emission travel modes – walking or biking, improve constrained transit options, sole travel times/congestion/inefficient transportation happening at times

Applying the Climate Framework

- For all aspects of the program, including but not limited to:
 - Design option screening criteria, Program-level performance measures, desired, outcomes, environmental impacts analysis and mitigation, bridge, highway, and transit design, construction specifications and procurement strategies, IGAs and Community Benefits Agreements, Program commitments: community enhancements and mitigation.

QUESTIONS:

EAG Member: Where are the people that are impacted and excluded within this framework? When you look at design and analysis what type of benefits, educational opportunities, and career pathways infused into project? What is the enforcement mechanism included with climate and equity nexus?

- Sarah: People are everywhere in community. How can the climate actions chosen by the design team impact communities? How do people interact with infrastructure? How will it perform for people in community when considering emissions and affordability?
- Greg: Discusses putting together a committee of EAG folks to look at what a community benefits agreement would look like. Will be enforced by putting commitments in the environment. Document to become enforceable part of this program. Folks can hold funding agencies accountable if necessary. Inter-governmental agreements (IGA's) and partner agencies are involved, contractor specifications, how property is disposed of and used.

EAG Member: Who is contributing to the conversation around which people are being considered? How are other communities being brought into this discussion?

- Jake: Fabiola will address community engagement plan and guidance around how to define and include who and which communities are being brought into the discussion.

EAG Member: Is the job rehabilitation or building going to be contracted out by lowest bid? How is that determined? How is equity offered in the workforce? Consider indigenous landscaping and plants for climate. Named Wisdom of the Elders as a resource.

- Greg: Some will be low bid and states alternative contracting methods as effective and equal to cost. Some will be quality based choices.

EAG Member: How much do we know about current climate footprint and traffic of the bridge, and what the projected increase could be or could look like over the next 10 years, and how this project's green approach will improve that, especially as the design phases approaches?

- Sarah: Lots of metrics will be recorded. Current and recent traffic data forecasts and analysis. Green house gas reports coming in the next few months.
- Greg: Multiple options, ideas, and details are being looked at as we are getting to the IBR solution.

EAG Member: About zero waste goals of demolition of bridge – do we have mechanisms and measures to track and report?

- Greg: Different entities score zero waste goals. We want to follow best practices across country. Concrete can be recycled, use segments of existing bridge to connect, steel may be recycled.
- EAG Member: Go above and beyond the baseline standard. We can use international standards.

EAG Member: Applying the equity framework to climate is important. How does climate effect each group?

- Greg: We plan to set high bar for equity and climate for this region.

- EAG Member: We should take each objective and unpack it to examine and include it in equity framework
- Dr. Hunte: We should put frameworks side by side.
 - o Equity- look at disproportionate impacts of climate change
 - o Climate – focus on most vulnerable because we all are affected

Fall Community Engagement

Fabiola Casas, Community Engagement Lead

The purpose of the engagement during this timeframe is:

- Raise awareness and inform community of program timeline, milestones, and reach IBR solutions
- Inform community members of design options
- Solicit feedback relevant to the decision-making process
- Build trust and a two-way dialogue with community members, stakeholders, especially with communities of concern

Engagement Activities:

- Online Open House, live late October
- Community Input Survey, November
- Community briefings
- Four CBO co-hosted listening sessions
- Presentation to Bi-State Legislative Committee
- Community Working Group meetings
- Freight focus group
- Comprehensive Community Engagement Report

QUESTIONS:

EAG Member: Who would these surveys go to and what languages will surveys be available in?

- Fabiola: Far and wide distribution. Putting thought into how to be relevant to each community. Languages will be in eight diff languages. Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Somali, Chinese traditional and simplified, Chuukese, Romanian, and Vietnamese

EAG Member: Are they going to be virtual, in person, mailers?

- Fabiola: It will be primarily virtual. We are advertising via postcards w QR code, on the IBR website, on social media

EAG Member: Can survey be printed or taken verbally (ex: phone call)?

- Fabiola: This is something we will consider

Equity Framework

Chris Lepe, IBR Equity Panel

Chris provided a summary of changes since the last EAG meeting, followed up with what additional changes the group would like to see, and the accountability mechanisms they may establish. Chris thanks group members for their contribution. Summary of changes includes:

Added:

- Greater detail regarding implementation that starts on page 8 with a description and graphic of the IBR program structure including where the EAG sits in regard to other players
- Page 6 had some language on existing disparities and historical harm such as the construction of I-5 and what that did to the southern corridor
- Page 7 and a few other places include a disclaimer regarding the purpose and context of the framework
- Added and going to add accountability mechanisms section

Modified:

- Structure of the document arranged for better flow of information

- Equity Definitions Principles and Objectives portion moved upward in the document
- Operationalizing Equity section moved lower in the document
- Language modifications
 - Equity Principles on page 7

Removed:

- “Marginalized”
- “Communities of Concern” (replaced with “Equity Priority Groups”)
- Some terms in glossary not used in the document, and some added to the glossary

Jake: Thanked subcommittee members and requested that the group continue to be frank and point out areas of detail that need attention.

Johnell: Thanked group members and subcommittees for additional work. We are on the right track and eager to move forward. Please offer feedback so we can implement when making critical decisions. We are in a position to do monumental work. Thank you for sticking with us through the technical and foundational components, resulting in a more equitable program.

Chris: Introduced Small Group Breakout Discussions, to be guided by the following prompts:

- 1) Do the changes address comments and concerns raised at the last meeting? Anything further you’d like to see before it is finalized?
- 2) Accountability mechanisms: What ideas do you have to help us demonstrate how and when the framework is used?

Breakout Rooms

Small groups breakout via Zoom for 20 minutes to discuss the two breakout discussion questions.

Brent: Explains public comment instructions

Report Out

Roberta called upon an EAG Member to continue a discussion that was cut off.

EAG Member: The group should hold itself accountable to define and track equity goals.

Fabiola: How do we build up to the accountability mechanism and how it relates to the community benefits agreement? What do the accountability measures achieve and how are they used? Examples include: reports, dashboards, embedded in processes

EAG Member: Who are included in the term “communities of concern?” Are LGBTQ+ communities included – why or why not? Revisit definition as a group.

Johnell: Framework needs to be used in contracting compliance efforts. How can it be used as a good faith example or checklist contractors adhere to? Framework needs to guide the program’s big decisions. Technical teams should be using framework and equity lens.

EAG Member: How does the project provide support in helping develop understanding of what equity means in their work and contract

Greg: Looking forward to having assigned quality points with contractors to create balance

Johnell: More of an emphasis on rich history of indigenous community – burial sites and displacement that the community experienced. Revisions address inequalities the program is trying to lessen. The group responded positively to the removal of the term “communities of concern”.

EAG Member: One accountability tool could be to reward and acknowledge when equity goals are either met or unfinished.

Greg: The program is going to rely on federal funds, and the Federal government is particular around how incentives and disincentives are shaped. Can use goals but we have to be cautious as to how.

EAG Member: Will group be giving contractors a heads up (time) as to what equity goals are met or needs to be met?

Greg: We will engage contractor associations so that they know these goals. Hopefully contractors listen to sessions to acknowledge equity importance

Public Comment

Johnell: Lists public comment instructions

No members of the public signed up to comment.

Closing Comments

Dr. Hunte: Closed meeting and requested 3 takeaways from today's meeting. Brent posts meeting evaluation poll.

- 1) Greg: Linking of ideals to putting them into practice. Linking climate and equity, or accountability of both of those. How are they put into place and accomplish goals will be a key for this group.
- 2) Nina Jones, Civil Rights Compliance Manager – Anyone can contact Nina anytime on how compliance is done – available for one on ones.
- 3) EAG Member: Large project and many moving parts – thanks to everyone

Meeting Closing

Dr. Hunte, announced the next EAG meetings and what members can expect in the next session.

- Next EAG meeting: November 15th, 2021. 5:30pm-7:30pm – Performance Measure and Community Engagement Breakout

EAG members took a meeting evaluation poll.

🗳️ Polls

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EAG Survey

Poll ended | 1 question | 14 of 23 (60%) participated

1. How would you rate tonight's meeting, on a scale of 1-5 (Single Choice) *

14/14 (100%) answered



Dr. Hunte thanked the members and closed the meeting.

Meeting Adjourn time: 7:27pm