

EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP (EAG) MEETING #20

Date and Time: Monday, September 19th, 2022 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 7

WELCOME

Dr. Roberta Hunte, EAG Facilitator, welcomed EAG members to the meeting, explained how to view closed captions, gave instructions for public input, and previewed the meeting agenda.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Greg Johnson, IBR Program Administrator, shared updates to the program schedule. He explained that now the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative has been approved with unanimous support from the Executive Steering Group, the program will be moving into the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Administrator Johnson shared that the program hopes to make a request in the next legislative session for the Oregon Legislature to match the \$1 billion in funds approved by the state of Washington for construction of the program.

Administrator Johnson also shared a graphic of a draft concept for a possible river crossing configuration. He emphasized that decisions about the bridge width, configuration, and aesthetic design have not been determined and that work is in progress to explore the tradeoffs of different river crossing concepts.

NINE MONTH LOOKAHEAD

Jake Warr, IBR Equity Lead, provided an overview of the EAG's role in the upcoming work and phases of the program. He shared that the topics and areas with which the EAG will be engaging in the upcoming months will primarily include equity key performance indicators, the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) discussion, community engagement, and the environmental analysis phase.

Jake asked the group two questions for consideration and feedback from EAG members:

- Prompt: Are there other topics you were hoping to provide input on?

- How does oversight of the implementation of the equity framework in the program’s work and decisions fit into the EAG’s scope of work in the upcoming months?
 - Jake: There is an accountability tool that will be used by program teams for them to report on how the equity framework is being applied, and these reports will be shared with the EAG.
- Will the EAG have the opportunity to review the CBA and provide input into it?
 - Jake: The committee/body that will be leading the CBA process will include a representative or two from the EAG, and there will also be touchpoints throughout the process for the EAG to provide input.
- Prompt: What can we do to support your capacity to engage on these topics?
 - The program could consider offering grants/compensation to individuals or organizations to be part of the process on EAG and incentivize participation.
 - Administrator Johnson: The program has given mini-grants to some community-based organizations to participate in engagement with the program.
 - *Post-meeting note: Unaffiliated community members on the EAG are offered a \$35 gift card per meeting*

IBR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE

Angela Findley, the IBR Environmental Task Lead, provided an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and explained how the IBR program will be preparing a Supplemental EIS. The Supplemental EIS will provide a detailed analysis of potential environmental benefits and impacts of actions proposed by the IBR program.

The Supplemental Draft EIS will be published and posted to the IBR program website and there will be a public comment period during the summer of 2023 for individuals to provide feedback. The IBR program will consider all feedback received through the public comment period and prepare the Supplemental Final EIS by the summer of 2024, after which federal agencies will review and issue a Record of Decision. A Record of Decision allows the program to advanced design, apply for permits, and further update cost estimates.

Q. In your experience, what are some of the things you have observed as some of the biggest challenges in getting through this process?

A. There is a lot of information and a lot of complexities for a project of this size. The program will aim to provide information in an accessible way so that the public understands the potential impacts and benefits. NEPA is a policy act, but also a means for disclosure so that the public can know what decisions are being made and be able to affect those decisions.

Q. Before the Draft EIS is available, will there be any updates on any findings or will we just have to wait for the draft?

A. The analysis goes through several rounds of reviews with our joint lead agencies who are leading the NEPA process and will be published once the draft is out. As the program moves through the equity and environmental justice analyses we will likely be daylighting some of that information, but we have to make sure that it goes through the full set of reviews (local, state, and federal agencies).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHECK-IN

Salome Chimuku, of the IBR Community Engagement Team, provided an overview of the community engagement activities over the summer. The IBR program attended several different community events, fairs, and festivals where they shared basic program information and updates, as well as the Modified LPA. Through these efforts, the IBR team had over 500 direct interactions with community members and feedback was generally positive. Salome outlined the plans for upcoming engagement efforts which will include community briefings, program area tours, listening sessions, online and in-person open houses, and partnerships with community-based organizations.

Q. Earlier there was a question about compensating community members for participation in engaging with the project, could you please provide a little more details about that?

A. The program has a mini grant program to provide funding, materials, and staffing support to local community-based organizations to do outreach and encourage their community members to participate. In listening sessions that the program and CBO partners have hosted, translation, interpretation, and any other resources are provided to make these sessions as accessible as possible. We also provide compensation for community members to participate in listening sessions.

Q. What is some of the different feedback you have received?

A. Some of the folks in the area were very plugged in when it came to the shared-use path in the LPA as well as the transit options. They were also interested in how equity is being incorporated into the project. Others may have read an article or two but didn't have much information about the project, so us meeting them in places

where they were at and providing more information was very well received. Many felt it was helpful to have program representatives there in person to help answer questions and to navigate the program website.

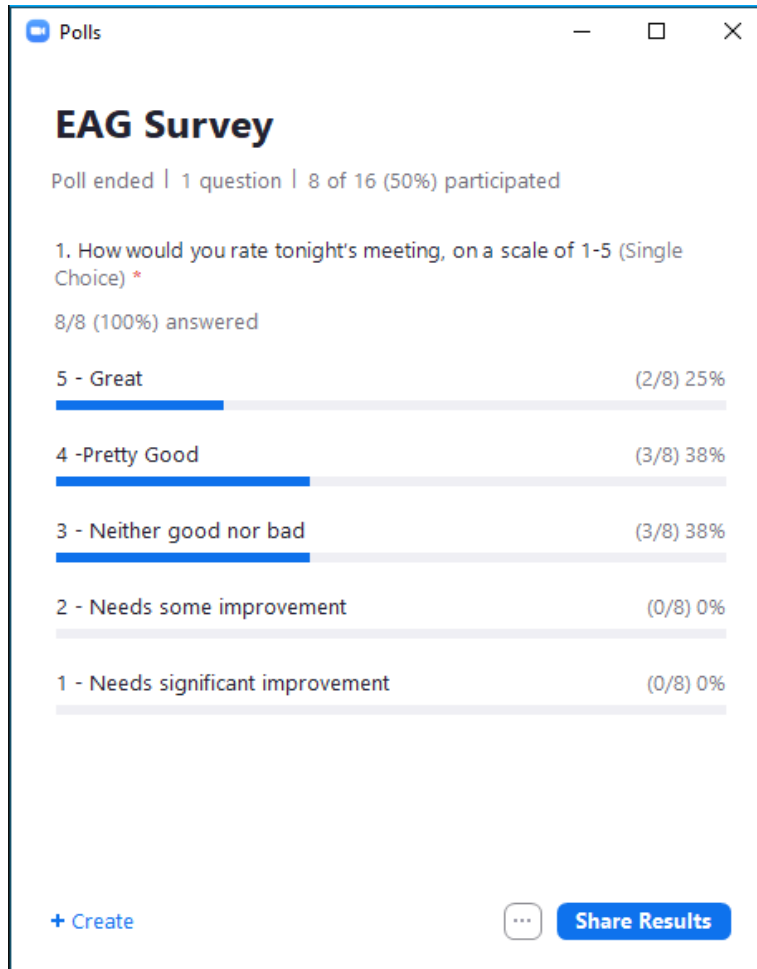
Q. In the conversations around equity and community benefits, was there anything that folks brought up in terms of what they would like to see?

A. Folks were mostly interested in the transit aspect, as well as variable rate tolling. Transit options were important to people, especially in the context of access to jobs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Gibson, a neighbor of the program area, asked how equity is going to be applied to those living near the corridor in terms of design, construction, and operation of the bridge.

MEETING EVALUATION POLL



ADJOURN

- Next EAG meeting: October 17th, 2022, 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Following EAG meeting: TBD

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
EAG Members	
Hai That Ho Ton	Community member
John Gardner	TriMet
Katherine Kelly	City of Vancouver
Miriam Halliday	WSW
Shane Valle	Portland Bureau of Transportation
Shona Carter	Community member
Jennifer Campos	RTC
Monica Tellez-Fowler	C-TRAN
Matt Serres	Disability Rights Oregon
Alicia Sojourner	City of Vancouver
Hai Ton	Community Member
Sebrina Owens-Wilson	Metro
Obie Ford	WSU Vancouver
Bobbi Stedman	Port of Portland
Aidan Gronauer	WSDOT
IBR Staff	
Jake Warr	Equity Lead

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
Emilee Thomas Peralta	Equity Team
Salome Chimuku	Community Engagement
Angela Findley	Environmental Task Lead
Brent Hamlin	Tech support
Dr. Roberta Hunte	Facilitator
Greg Johnson	Program Administrator

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

A recording of the meeting is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHhjc5CDjek&t=19s>

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: <https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/eag-september-19-meeting/>