JOINT COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) AND EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP (EAG) MEETING SUMMARY

Date and Time: Monday, June 16, 2025, 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 14

MEETING OVERVIEW

- Community Benefits Advisory Group (CBAG) Recommendations: The CBAG Team shared its process for developing recommendations, highlighting recurring themes like user experience, construction impacts, and environmental considerations. Members highlighted the need to ensure the Program is accountable for implementing recommendations once they are finalized.

- Program Updates: The Program is transitioning into a delivery-focused phase, with a $1.9 billion funding amendment underway to begin right-of-way acquisition and procurement. A Record of Decision is expected in early 2026, with in-water construction anticipated to begin in fall 2027. The program continues to engage the public through local community events and briefings. It also continues to consult with federally recognized tribes.

- Workforce Development: The Program has conducted extensive small business and workforce engagement activities. Advisory group members expressed concern over the lack of a clear, funded workforce development strategy – emphasizing that training needs to begin well before construction starts.

- Upcoming Architectural Elements Workshops: The next two advisory group meetings will be held along with the Design Team and will focus on architectural elements. These sessions will provide the Design Team with important insights to help the bridge reflect community identity and values.

ACTION ITEMS

- The CBAG Team will follow up to confirm which recommendations have been shared or will be shared with the EAG and CAG.

WELCOME

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, CAG Facilitator, welcomed attendees, explained Zoom and YouTube logistics, and introduced the meeting agenda. Lisa welcomed Dr. Roberta Hunte, EAG Facilitator, and Johnell Bell, IBR Fair Access Officer, who were also in attendance.

CAG Co-Chair Ed Washington expressed appreciation to both advisory groups for their ongoing commitment and acknowledged entering the fifth year of collaboration. He extended well wishes to CAG Co-Chair Lynn Valenter, who was traveling and unable to attend.

Roberta then invited the group to participate in an icebreaker in which they named upcoming events in their communities.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY GROUP (CBAG) RECAP

Lucy Hamer, Community Benefits Team, presented a recap of the CBAG's work, recommendations, and an overview of next steps. Lucy reviewed the CBAG's process, starting with visioning, where members considered what they want their communities to be like once the bridge is complete. During the brainstorming phase, members assembled ideas based on categories, before reviewing/refining their recommendations. The confirmation step allowed members to further refine their recommendations and vote to finalize their recommendations.

Lucy then reviewed the key themes from CBAG's discussions, including user experience, construction impacts, considerations for implementation of recommendations, community voice, and environmental considerations. She stated that these themes emerged repeatedly across multiple discussions and throughout multiple categories of recommendations.

Lucy then shared how the recommendations created by CBAG will be analyzed within the program to determine which recommendations can become commitments. She explained that the recommendations will be vetted by the IBR Program technical teams, before they go before project leadership who will make the final decision on which recommendations will become commitments reflected in a Community Benefits Plan. Lucy informed the group that the Community Benefits Plan will be finalized and released after the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is published. Advisory group members shared their feedback. A few members enjoyed the opportunity to serve on CBAG. One member highlighted that it was fantastic to sit down with the Mayor of Vancouver and representatives from Portland City Council at the same table, with everyone talking as equals. It was a powerful experience. During the discussion, members shared a strong desire to have CAG and EAG hold the program accountable to the CBAG's recommendations.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator, provided program updates. Greg shared that the Online Open House and public comment period for Section 106 was completed, and now that document is being finalized. The program is also preparing a $1.9 billion amendment to begin right-of-way acquisition and procurement activities. Greg shared that the team has engaged with many interested parties including the Oregon Transportation Commission, the Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee, the C-TRAN Board of Directors, the Metro Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee, the Clark County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Cowlitz County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Greg stated that these engagements are critical as the program moves into a more delivery-focused mode.

Greg shared that the Program has also engaged with the community at events such as the Latino Community Resources Group Multicultural Fair and the City of Vancouver Juneteenth event. He also shared that the program will be present at upcoming community events such as Portland's Juneteenth celebration, NE Cully Sunday Parkways, Fort Vancouver Picnic in the Park, the Mississippi Street Fair, Vancouver Saturday in the Park Pride and Portland Pride. Greg then shared information about the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), which is the capital improvement plan for state and federally funded transportation projects. He explained that existing funding must be programmed in the STIP in order to obligate state and federal dollars. He stated that the IBR Program is seeking approval from Oregon Metro, the Oregon Transportation Commission and the SW Regional Transportation Commission to obligate approximately $1.9 billion in existing funding.

Advisory group member: *Can you clarify the timeline for the US Coast Guard to issue the permit needed for the project?*

Greg responded that the US Coast Guard and Army Corps are aware that the Program will be submitted a Navigational Impact Report either later this month or in early July, which will begin the more in-depth conversation about the type of bridge that will be necessary for the location. Greg explained that the Coast Guard can then decide whether to hold a 30-day or 60-day public comment period, and the Program does not yet know which they will select.

Advisory group member: *I wanted to ask about tribes that are not federally recognized, such as the Chinook that has deep connections to the community.*

While Greg responded by stating that federal policies limit direct consultation with non-federally recognized tribes, IBR Tribal Liaison, Kassie Rippee, provided the following additional information after the meeting: Federal and state law and policy each have their own different processes and practices regarding engaging with non-federally recognized tribes, which follows a different consultation process than that for federally recognized tribes. While the project cannot publicly disclose the specifics of tribal consultation and engagement, Chinook Nation is a Consulting Party on IBR.

IBR WORKFORCE OUTREACH & UPDATES

Barbi Alexander, DBE & Workforce Equity Compliance Specialist, presented updates on workforce outreach.

Barbi shared that the IBR Program has engaged in numerous community outreach events, including those focused on workforce development, as well as local and small business outreach and support. Barbi explained that there is great overlap in workforce development and small businesses, and the Program is trying to leverage that intersection. Barbi shared upcoming events, including the Columbia Willamette Regional Workforce Collaborative Career Coaches Workshop, the US DOT Small Business Transportation Resource Center Bonding Education Program, and an IBR Industry Update virtual webinar during the summer. Barbi provided information about small business and workforce support strategies. She stated that the program hosted a discussion on workforce strategies with small business organization leadership, public agencies, and community-based workforce leaders. The IBR Program asked these leaders how small businesses can be best supported by the Program. They also discussed strategies for recruiting and retaining workers from all

communities. They also explored ways to partner with community-based organizations, as well as navigating labor compliance and reporting. Barbi explained that all of the information and best practices gathered during these discussions will be brought forward to the Small Business Organization group, who will comment on them before they are presented to IBR leadership.

Advisory group members discussed workforce development strategy and funding. Members shared a desire to have a much more specific strategy and priority relating to workforce development.

Advisory group member: *The field trips the Program hosted are great, but it does not amount to systemic change. With a massive public investment like this, I expect more and I think many of us expect more. This group is meant to be advocates for the project. A part of that is that we have a voice in the community and we can elevate messaging and priorities. We can assist in that. We are here to ensure these investments are spent in the way that they are intended. The IBR Program doesn't have to reinvent the wheel. There are already efforts on recruitment, retention and workforce development wraparound services.*

Barbi responded that the Program has not yet earmarked any specific funds other than those for outreach and education. She stated that the Program is looking forward to more direct investments into workforce development, but those decisions are still pending. Greg added that the Program has appealed to the DOT headquarters of both states to make investments in workforce training. Greg stated this is a newer concept for the DOTs to make such a direct investment into workforce development. The DOTs have had challenges with financial constraints and leadership changes, but the Program is continuing to push for these investments.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN ELEMENTS

Katy Belokonny, Public Affairs Team, presented on Architectural Design Elements. Katy shared that the advisory groups will be engaged in an upcoming workshop with the design team virtually in July, and again in-person in August. Katy then shared information about what advisory group members can expect from those meetings. She stated that the meetings will be focused on design elements, including a vision for how various programmatic elements look, which will be included in procurement documents to hire contractors in the future.

Katy explained that the first workshop will focus on determining how certain elements of the project to look and feel. She emphasized that this process is not about determining bridge configuration or type, but rather about establishing parameters around specific architectural elements that can be provided to contractors in procurement documents. Katy stated that this will ensure that the project is a visual representation of the community that inspires pride. After discussing those principles of design, the first workshop will discuss the main crossing itself, including design constraints and key design characteristics.

Katy shared that the second workshop is going to focus on more specific program elements including land-based structures away from the main crossing, as well as the shared use path and light rail bridge.

Advisory group members discussed the upcoming workshops. The Program has not specifically engaged the arts and culture community, however these communities were represented on CBAG. The Programs is focused on first engaging the CAG and EAG to obtain their feedback. Members shared ideas such as mass

timber and how it is reviving the timber industry in Oregon, and how that method can be as strong, durable and fire resistant as steel and concrete. Katy encouraged group members to bring thoughts exactly like that in how they want the bridge to look and feel.

Lisa shared that the July 21st meeting will be virtual and that group members are invited to the IBR office on August 27th from 12pm to 2pm to engage with the architects. Feedback is going to be gathered from multiple interested parties, the IBR Program has made the commitment to listen and to hear from them. The team can commit to returning to the group and sharing decisions made that considered these conversations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
CAG & EAG Members	
Aidan Gronauer	WSDOT
Brenda Martin	PBOT
Chandra Washington	C-TRAN
Dena Horton	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Ed Washington	CAG Co-Chair
Irina Phillips	East European Coalition
Jennifer Campos	SW Washington Regional Transportation Council
John Gardner	TriMet
Jonathan Eder	Port of Vancouver
June Reyes	Port of Portland

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
Marcus Mundy	Coalition of Communities of Color
Meg Johnson	Community Member
Miriam Halliday	Workforce SW Washington
Nicole Chen	City of Vancouver
Sebrina Owens-Wilson	Metro
Sheri Call	Washington Trucking Association
Sokho Eath	IRCO
Tom Hickey	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Vicki Nakashima	Community Member
Zachary Lauritzen	Oregon Walks
IBR Staff	
Dr. Roberta Suzette Hunte	EAG Facilitator
Lisa Keohokalole Schauer	CAG Facilitator
Johnell Bell	Fair Access Officer
Greg Johnson	Program Administrator
Barbi Alexander	DBE & Workforce Equity Compliance Specialist
Lucy Hamer	Community Benefits Team
Hannah Williams	Public Affairs Team
Katy Belokonny	Public Affairs Team
Casey Liles	Delivery Manager
Brenda Torres Siragusa	Community Benefits Team
Amanda Wilkes	ASL Interpreter

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
Teresa Meyer-Clemens	Captioner
Amanda Hart	Tech Support

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

A recording of the meeting is available here: Community Benefits Advisory Group (CAG) + Equity Advisory Group (EAG) June 16, 2025 4:00PM PST (youtube.com)

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: Community Benefits Advisory Group (CAG) + Equity Advisory Group (EAG) June 16, 2025 Meeting | Interstate Bridge Replacement Program