



IBR Executive Steering Group Meeting

September 15, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

www.interstatebridge.org

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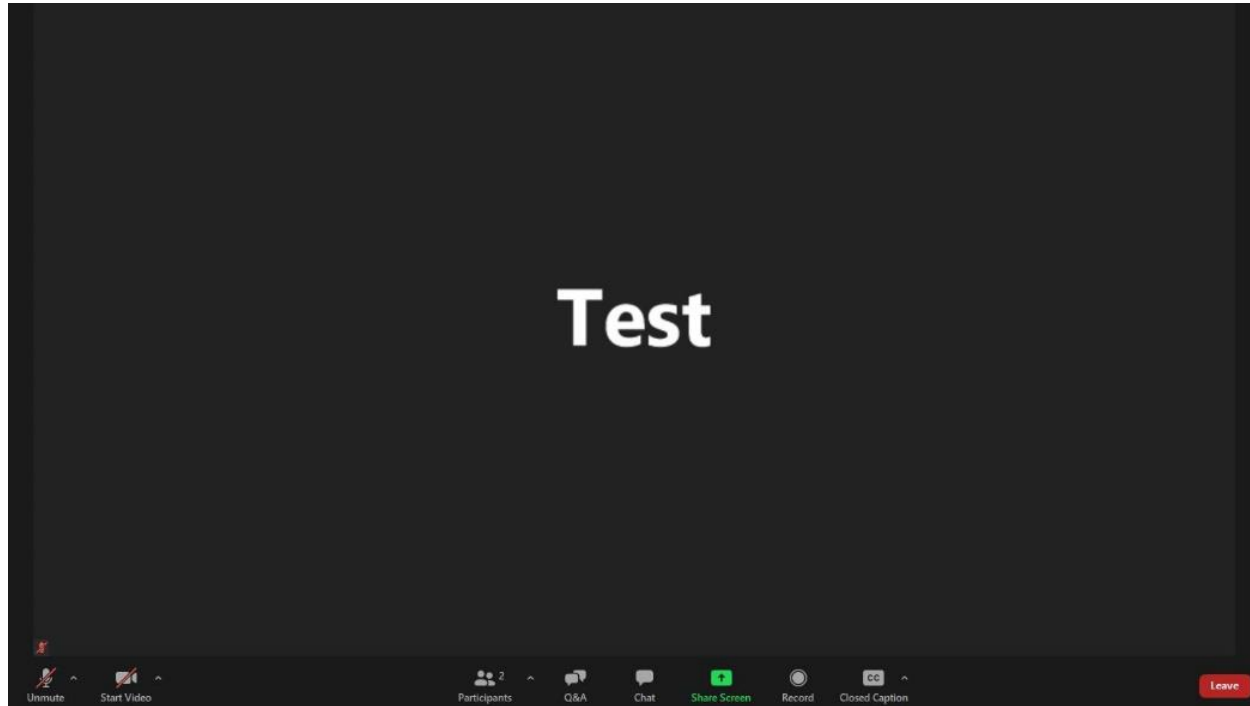
Subtítulos disponible en Inglés y Español

Los subtítulos en Inglés están disponibles en Zoom y YouTube.

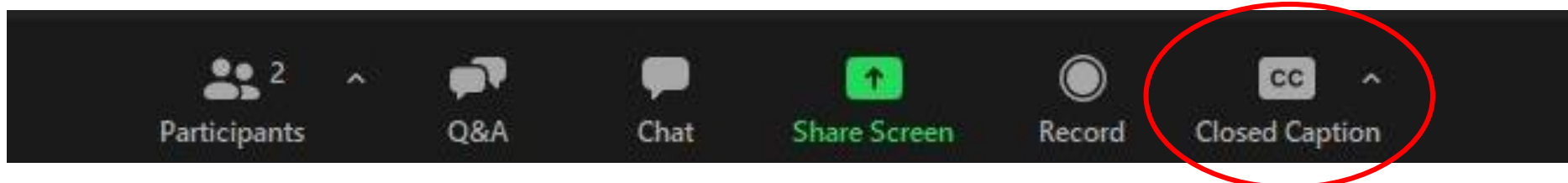
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How to access closed captions



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2. Click on the “CC” icon and a separate window with captions will appear.



Webinar Participation Tips

- ▶ We encourage panelists to turn on your video.
- ▶ Please keep your audio on mute when not speaking.
- ▶ Before speaking, please state your name and affiliation to help attendees identify who is talking.
- ▶ If you experience technical difficulties, please contact program staff at:
(360) 329-6744

Meeting Ground Rules

- ▶ Honor the agenda
- ▶ Listen to understand and ask questions to clarify
- ▶ Hard on the problems, soft on the people
- ▶ Address interests and seek common ground
- ▶ Provide a balance of speaking time



Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
10:00 -10:30 am	Welcome, Acknowledgements, Agenda Review, Partner Updates
10:30 -11:00 am	Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Administrator Updates
11:00 -11:40 am	Overview – The Environmental Process
11:40 -11:50 am	Public Comment
11:50 – 11:59 am	Closing Statements and Confirmation of Upcoming Meeting Dates/Topics, Next Steps and Summary
12:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned



Welcome & Acknowledgements

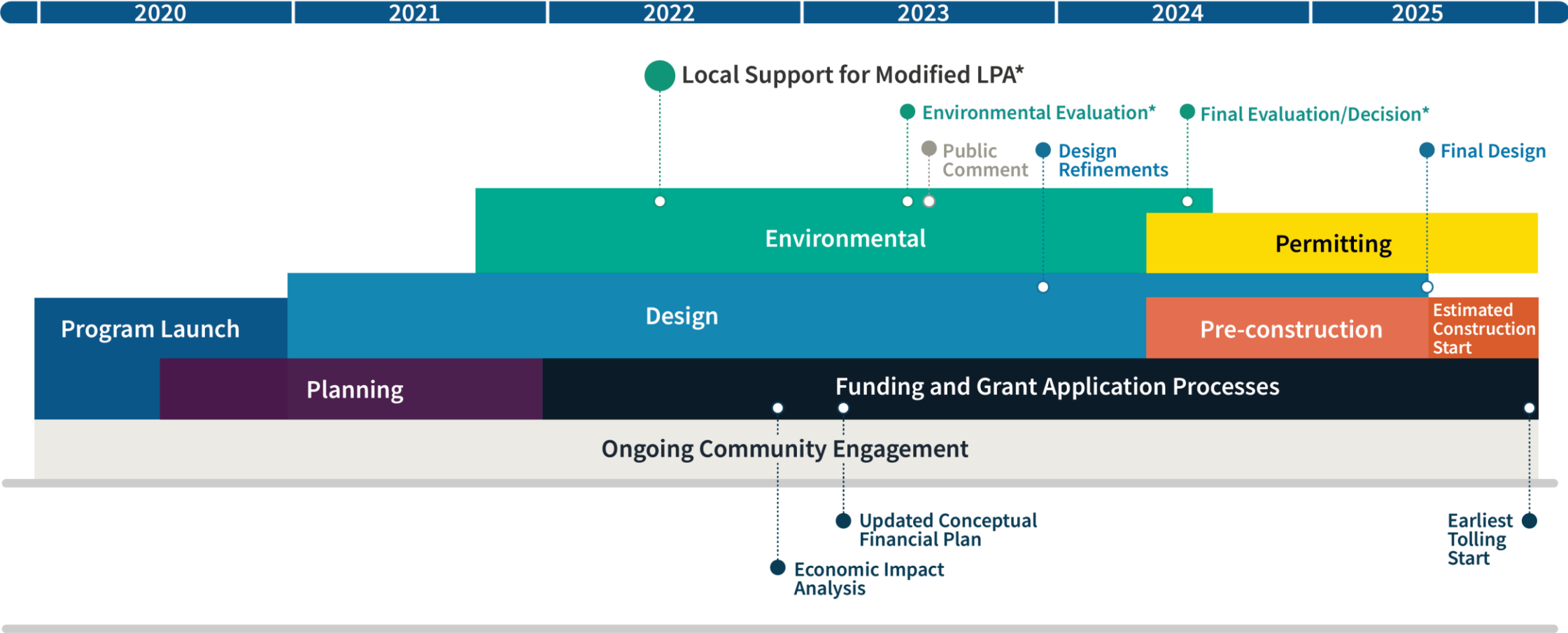
Introduction of Participating ESG Members



Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Administrator's Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

Program Schedule

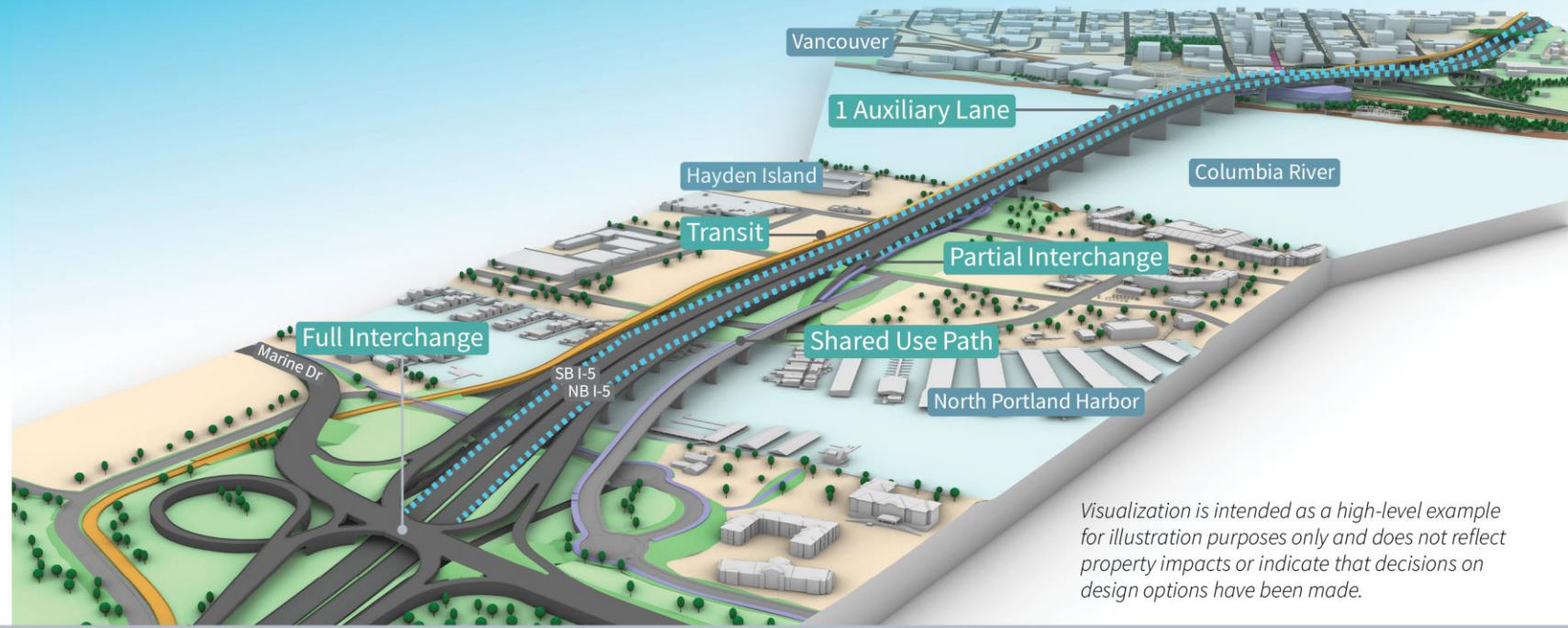


*Partner agencies confirmed their support for foundational components of the Modified LPA (Locally Preferred Alternative) to advance for further study in the environmental evaluation (Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement or SDEIS). During the SDEIS, public comment will be taken for approximately 45 days and design refinements will be made the following months to respond to findings from the environmental review and public input. Full acceptance of a corridor-wide alternative will not be identified until after public comment and design refinement. At the conclusion of the review process, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be made and the program will enter into final design and pre-construction.

IBR: Modified LPA


Hayden Island:
Partial Interchange
 Transit:
Light Rail to Evergreen near I-5

River Crossing
 Auxiliary Lanes:
1
 Variable Rate
 Tolling:
Yes




Partial Interchange Summary


Hayden Island Drive local-only trips and Tomahawk Island Drive extension increase Hayden Island east-west connectivity



Smaller interchange leaves space for a comfortable pedestrian environment and opportunities for open space



Addresses safety and congestion by improving active transportation, adding shoulders, increasing lane widths and improving ramp merges



Benefits of Expanding LRT from Expo to Evergreen

4 Stations* 

3,000+ Residents are within a half mile walk

26% BIPOC  **41%** Low-income

*Includes the existing Expo station and 3 new stations.

Equity - Jobs Accessible via Transit (% increase)*

68% General **73%** BIPOC

59% Low-income **71%** People w/ disabilities

*Increase in jobs accessible from the program area within a 45 minute midday transit ride. Percent increase determined by adding LRT Expo to Evergreen compared to 2045 No Build.

Climate - GHG Reduction*

36,000 metric tons/year
 or the equivalent of

7,000 homes' electricity for one year **OR** **89,400,000** miles driven by gas powered car

*GHG reduction is an estimate calculated from the displacement (or avoidance) in the shift from cars to transit.

Strategies to Combat Climate Change



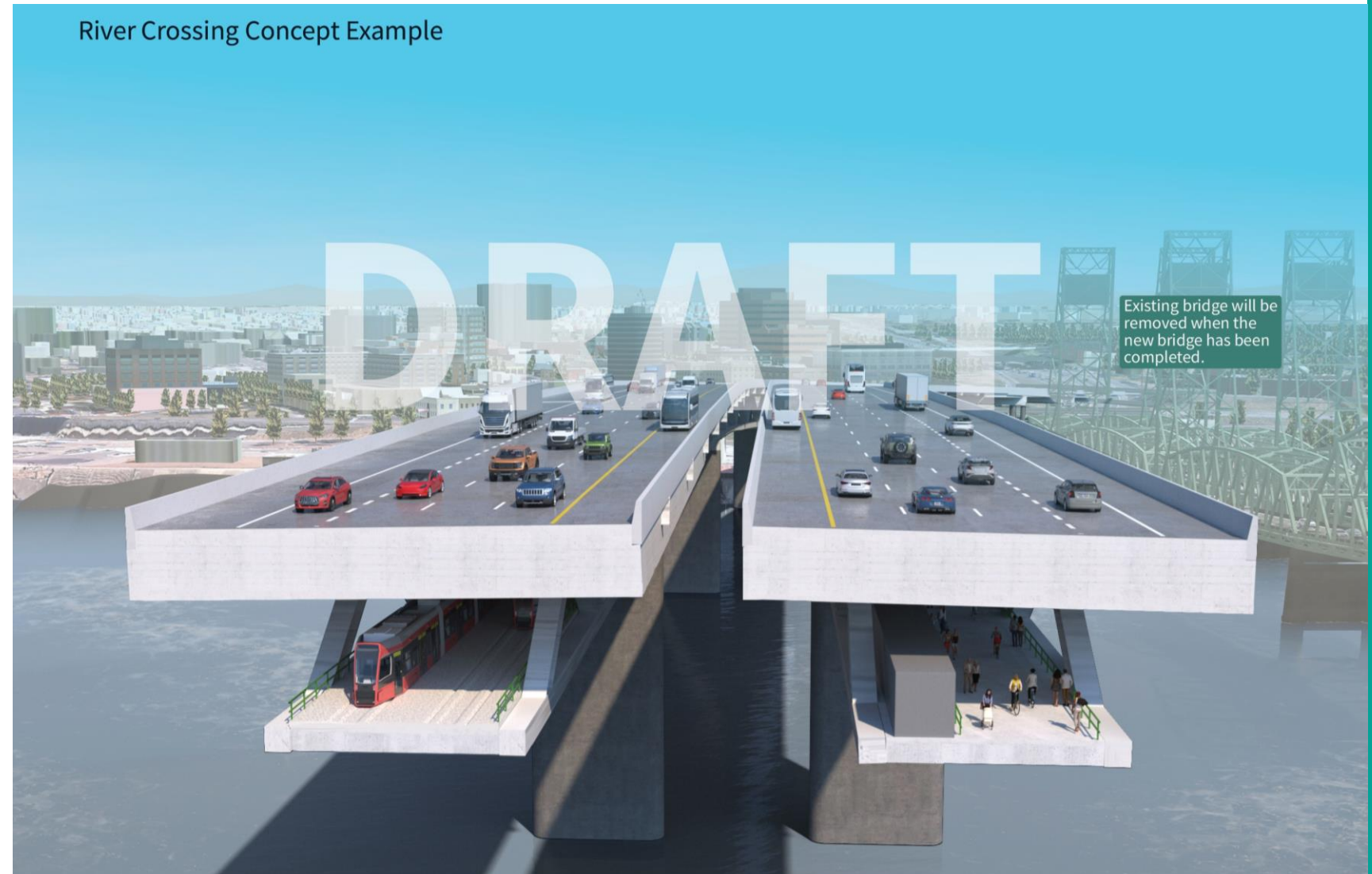
- Demand Management, including Variable Rate Tolling (tolling will consider price reductions for low-income users and low-carbon vehicles)
- Increase traffic operation efficiencies (ramp metering and auxiliary lanes)
- Mode shift from cars to active transportation and transit
- Low-carbon emission construction strategies

IBR Modified LPA



Example of One Possible River Crossing Concept

- ▶ This graphic is for example purposes only to show one way that all modes of transportation could be accommodated
- ▶ Decisions on bridge width & configuration, bridge type, and aesthetic design have not been determined
- ▶ Work is in progress to explore the tradeoffs of different river crossing concepts



Other Program Updates

- ▶ **Partner Conditions**
- ▶ **Community Benefits Agreement**
- ▶ **U.S. Coast Guard**
- ▶ **FTA National Construction Conference**
- ▶ **Federal Funding**

Federal Grant Opportunities

- ▶ The IBR program has already begun applying for federal grants and will continue to explore opportunities to maximize federal funding
- ▶ Primary federal grant opportunities:
 - **Bridge Investment Program:** Submitted joint ODOT/WSDOT applications for \$1 million planning grant and \$750 million construction grant
 - **Mega Program:** Submitted joint ODOT/WSDOT letter of intent to apply in future round
 - **FTA Capital Investment Grants Program:** Anticipate submitting request for transit construction funding through the New Starts program
- ▶ Other potential federal grant opportunities:
 - USDOT Reconnecting Communities
 - USDOT Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)
 - USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
 - FHWA Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technology Deployment
 - FHWA Accelerating Innovative Deployment Demonstration Program



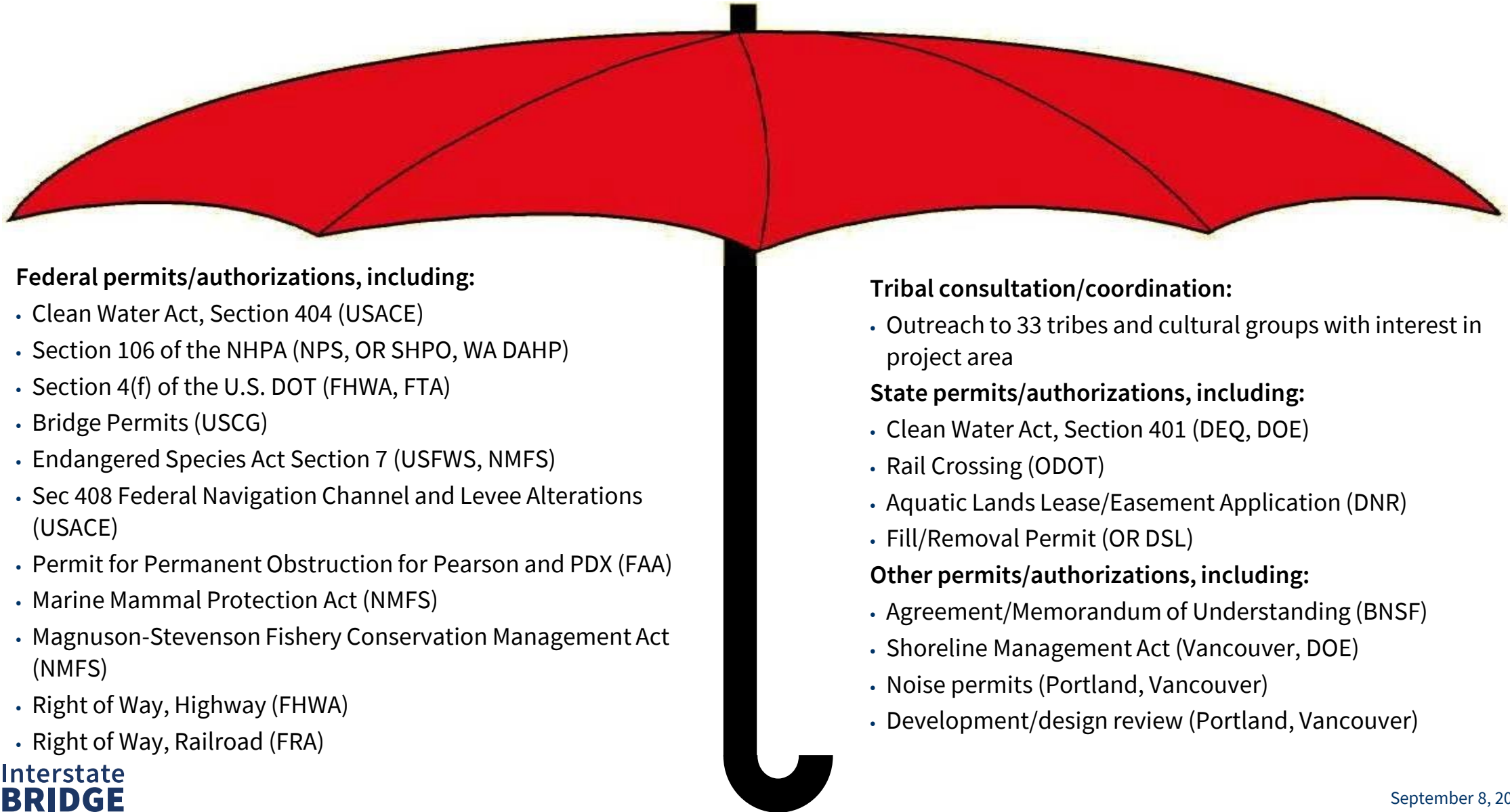
Advancing the Modified LPA into NEPA

Chris Regan, IBR Environmental Manager

What is NEPA?

- ▶ **National Environmental Policy Act of 1970**
- ▶ **Requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed major Federal actions prior to making decisions**
- ▶ **Ensures agencies consider the significant environmental consequences of their proposed actions and inform the public about their decision making**

The NEPA “Umbrella”



Federal permits/authorizations, including:

- Clean Water Act, Section 404 (USACE)
- Section 106 of the NHPA (NPS, OR SHPO, WA DAHP)
- Section 4(f) of the U.S. DOT (FHWA, FTA)
- Bridge Permits (USCG)
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 (USFWS, NMFS)
- Sec 408 Federal Navigation Channel and Levee Alterations (USACE)
- Permit for Permanent Obstruction for Pearson and PDX (FAA)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (NMFS)
- Magnuson-Stevenson Fishery Conservation Management Act (NMFS)
- Right of Way, Highway (FHWA)
- Right of Way, Railroad (FRA)

Tribal consultation/coordination:

- Outreach to 33 tribes and cultural groups with interest in project area

State permits/authorizations, including:

- Clean Water Act, Section 401 (DEQ, DOE)
- Rail Crossing (ODOT)
- Aquatic Lands Lease/Easement Application (DNR)
- Fill/Removal Permit (OR DSL)

Other permits/authorizations, including:

- Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (BNSF)
- Shoreline Management Act (Vancouver, DOE)
- Noise permits (Portland, Vancouver)
- Development/design review (Portland, Vancouver)

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

- ▶ **Supplements** (or builds on) past NEPA documents and decisions
- ▶ Focuses analysis on components that have **changed** since prior planning efforts
- ▶ Establishes corridor-wide footprint for detailed analysis of benefits and impacts
 - Design details in the Supplemental **Draft** EIS are conceptual (~5% design)
 - Design details in the Supplemental **Final** EIS will be advanced to about 15% design and refined based on partner input, public comment, other studies completed, mitigation commitments, etc.

Elements of the Environmental Analysis

- ▶ Acquisitions
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Archaeology
- ▶ Aviation
- ▶ Climate
- ▶ Cumulative
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Ecosystems
- ▶ Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Geology and Groundwater
- ▶ Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Historic Built Environment
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Neighborhoods and Populations
- ▶ Noise and Vibration
- ▶ Parks and Recreation
- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Section 4(f)
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Utilities
- ▶ Visual and Aesthetics
- ▶ Water Quality and Hydrology
- ▶ Wetlands

What's in the Supplemental Draft EIS?

Ch 1	Purpose and Need
Ch 2	Description of Alternatives
Ch 3	Existing Conditions, Environmental Consequences and Mitigation
Ch 4	Financial Analysis
Ch 5	Revised Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
Ch 6	Public Involvement and Tribal Consultation

- ▶ **Evaluate two alternatives**
 - Updated No Build Alternative
 - Modified LPA
- ▶ **Design is conceptual (~5%)**
 - General alignments and locations of transportation facilities
- ▶ **Impacts and benefits**
 - Mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis
- ▶ **Mitigation**
 - Proposed measures to address unavoidable adverse impacts where possible

Supplemental Draft EIS Comment Period

Your voice is important – we want to hear from you!

- ▶ Supplemental Draft EIS will be published and posted to the IBR program website
- ▶ Public comment period – **Summer 2023**
- ▶ Multiple forums to submit comments, including but not limited to:
 - Online comment forms
 - Emails and letters to IBR program
 - Comment forms and oral testimony at public hearing
- ▶ **Comments must be submitted in written form or oral testimony in order to be included in the public comment record**

How does the Supplemental Final EIS differ from the Draft?

- ▶ **Supplemental Final EIS**
 - Consider all comments submitted during the Supplemental Draft EIS comment period
 - **Refine** the Modified LPA in response to public comments and other design considerations
 - Update, correct, and augment the environmental impact and benefit analysis
 - Include additional regulatory compliance activities and findings
 - Commit to specific mitigation
- ▶ **Record of Decision issued by the lead federal agencies and documents the alternative that is selected to advance to further design and construction**
- ▶ **A Combined Supplemental Final EIS and Record of Decision is planned – Summer 2024**

NEPA and Other Regulatory Milestones

- ▶ Supplemental Draft EIS: **Summer 2023**
- ▶ Public Comment Period: **Summer 2023**
- ▶ Combined Supplemental Final EIS and ROD: **Summer 2024**
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act
 - Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and Mitigation Plan: **Early 2024**
- ▶ Endangered Species Act
 - Section 7 Biological Opinion: **Mid 2024**
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit: **Late 2025/Early 2026**
 - Rivers and Harbors Act Section 408 Navigation Channel/Levee Alterations: **Late 2025/Early 2026**
- ▶ U.S. Coast Guard
 - Rivers and Harbors Act Section 9 Bridge Permits: **Late 2025/Early 2026**



Questions or Feedback?



Opportunity for Public Input

Public Input Instructions

- ▶ There will be an opportunity to provide brief public input in the meeting today.
- ▶ To submit input after the meeting:
 - Email comments to info@interstatebridge.org with “ESG Public Comment” in the subject line
 - Call 888-503-6735 and state “ESG Public Comment” in your message



Comment Instructions

To make a verbal comment:

- ▶ If you have joined by Zoom, click “Raise Hand.”
- ▶ If you have joined by phone, press *9 to raise your hand.
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants. You will receive an “unmute” request. Please accept it. If you are commenting by phone dial *6 to unmute.
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation.
- ▶ Attendees will be allocated up to 2 minutes for public comment depending on the number of commenters up to a total of 10 minutes.



If we run out of time and you have not had a chance to speak, you can still provide comments after the meeting.

Comment Instructions

To submit comment after the meeting:

- ▶ Fill out comment form on program website or email comments to info@interstatebridge.org with “ESG Public Comment” in the subject line.
- ▶ Call 888-503-6735 and state "ESG Public Comment" in your message.
- ▶ All written comments must be received prior to 48 hours in advance of each upcoming meeting in order to be distributed to ESG members. Comments received after that point will be distributed to members in advance of their next meeting. All comments are posted on the IBR website.



Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Topics, Next Steps and Summary

Upcoming Meeting Dates & Proposed Topics

- ▶ ESG meeting frequency is being modified to every other month given the current program phase
- ▶ Final dates are being confirmed for upcoming meetings:
 - Late November/Early December
 - *Updated Cost and Funding Estimates*
 - *Update on Development of Community Benefits Agreement*
 - February 2023
 - *Update on Draft EIS*



Thank You!