



# Equity Advisory Group

September 19, 2022

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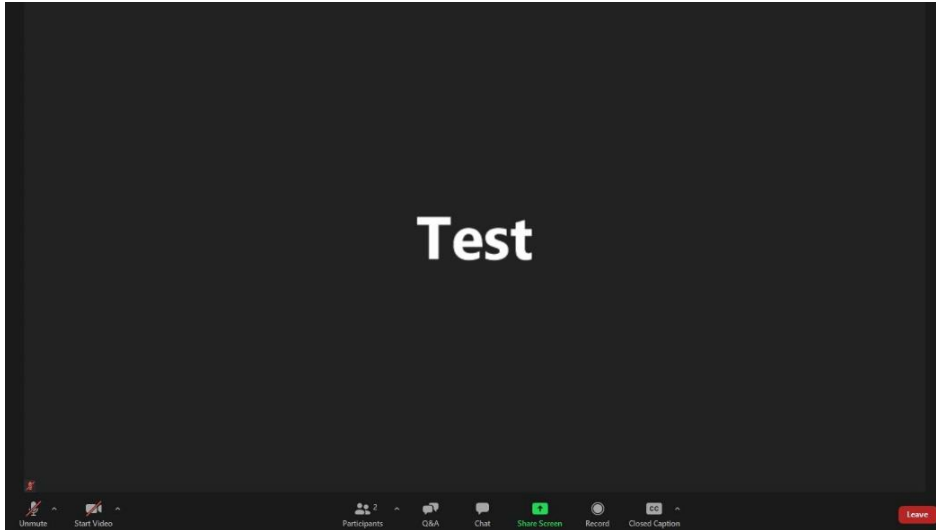
## Subtítulos disponible en Inglés y Español

Los subtítulos en Inglés están disponibles en Zoom y YouTube.

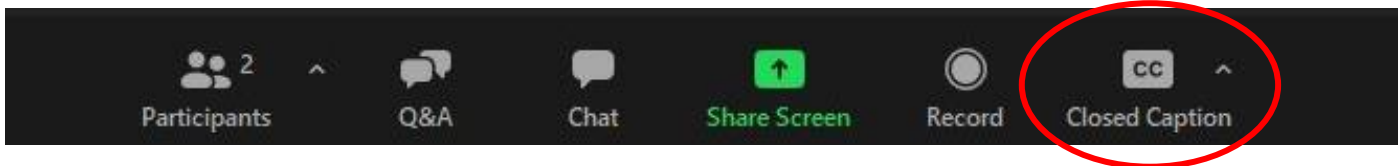
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# How to access closed captions in Zoom



1. At the bottom middle of your screen, you should see a menu of options. If you can't see the menu, hover your mouse over the bottom middle of the screen.
2. Click on the “CC” icon and a separate window with captions will appear.



# Reminders

- ▶ We encourage EAG members to turn on your video.
- ▶ Please say your name when you begin to speak.
- ▶ If you experience technical difficulties, please contact program staff at: **(360) 329-6744**

# Public Input Instructions

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



# Today's agenda

- ▶ Icebreaker
- ▶ Program Administrator Update
- ▶ Six month lookahead
- ▶ Overview of environmental analysis phase
- ▶ CBA update
- ▶ Community engagement check in
- ▶ Public comment
- ▶ Close out

# Icebreaker

# Icebreaker

- ▶ Name + pronouns
- ▶ Affiliation
- ▶ What do you consider one of your strongest character traits?

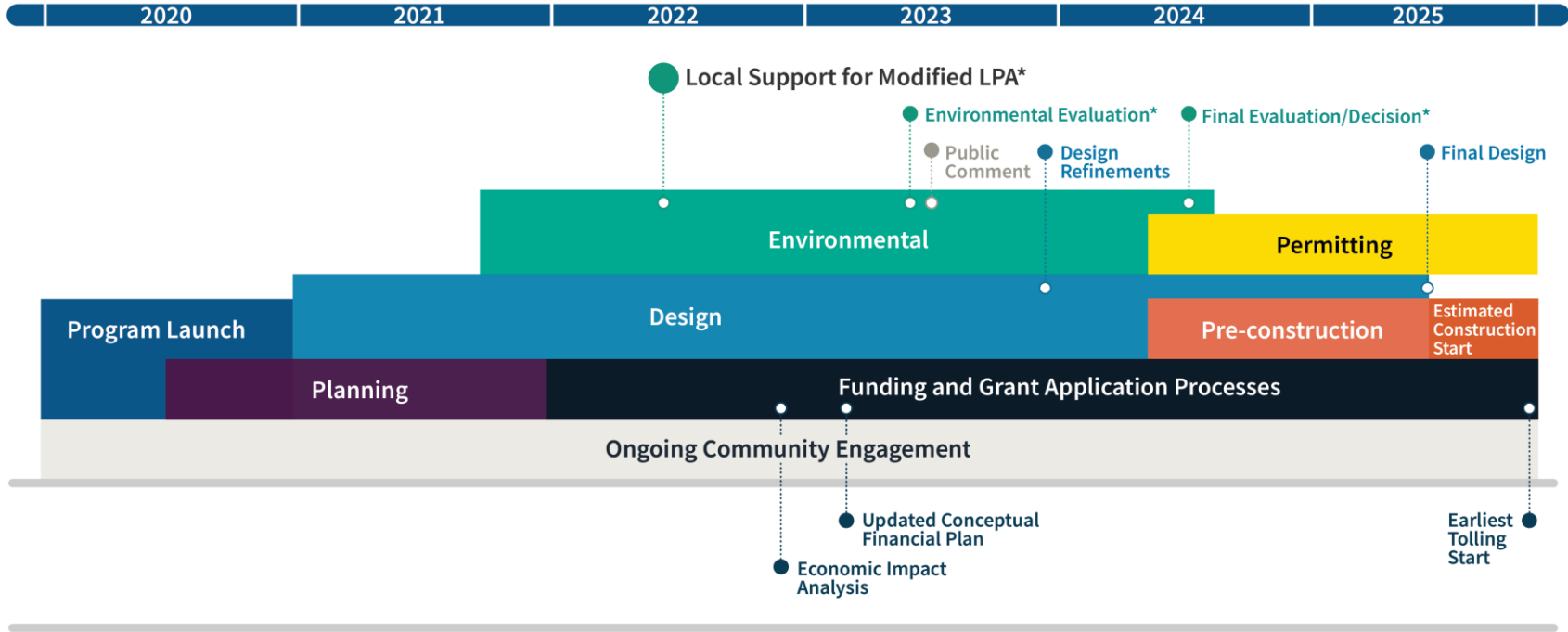




# Program Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

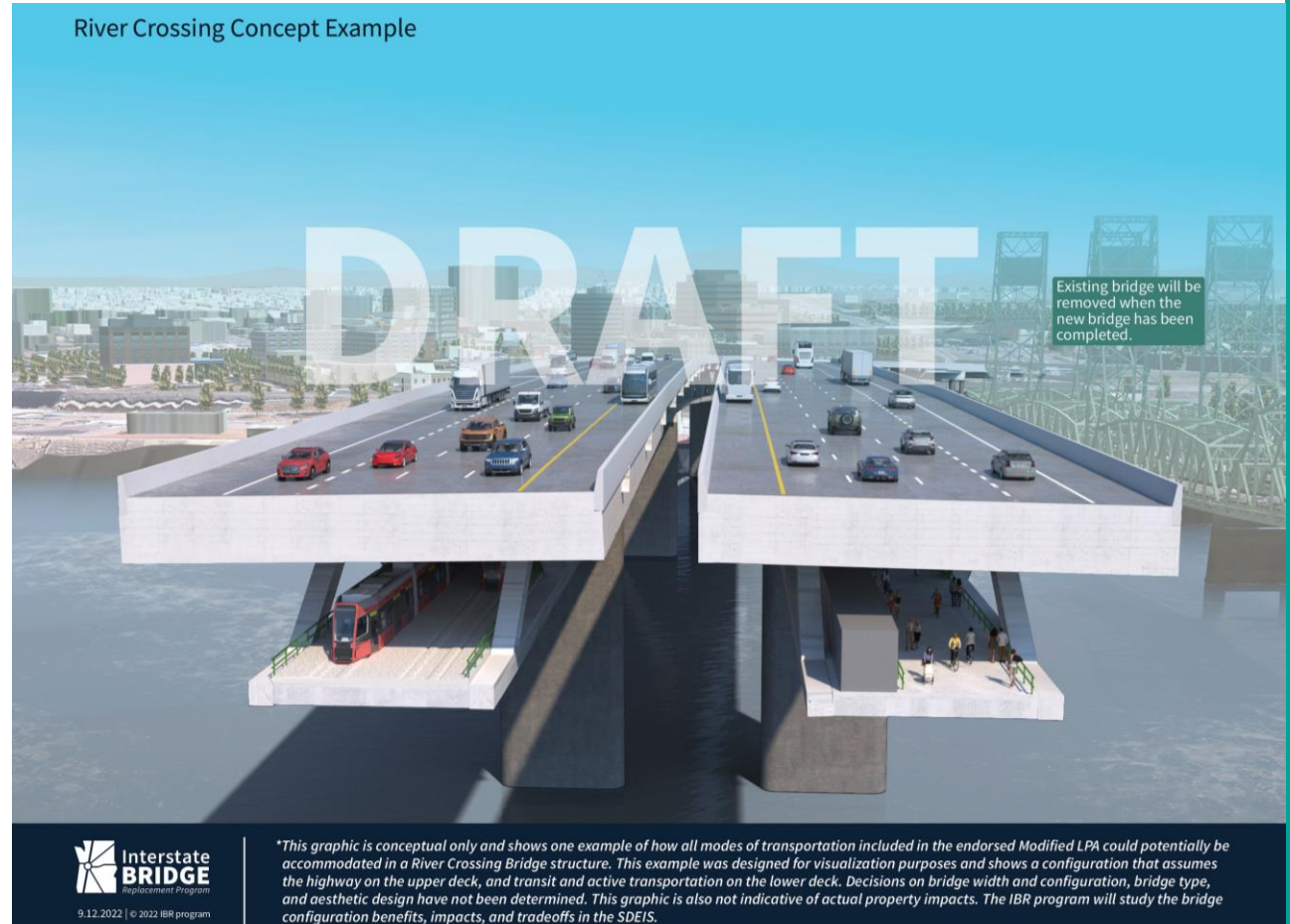
# Program Schedule



\*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.

# 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






# EAG 9 Month Lookahead

Jake Warr, Equity Lead

# EAG focus areas Fall 2022 – Spring 2023



Equity Key  
Performance  
Indicators

Community  
Engagement

EJ Analysis/  
Equity Report  
(NEPA)

Community  
Benefits  
Agreement

# Nine month lookahead

- ▶ Are there other topics you were hoping to provide input on?
- ▶ What can we do to support your capacity to engage on these topics?



# The Environmental Process

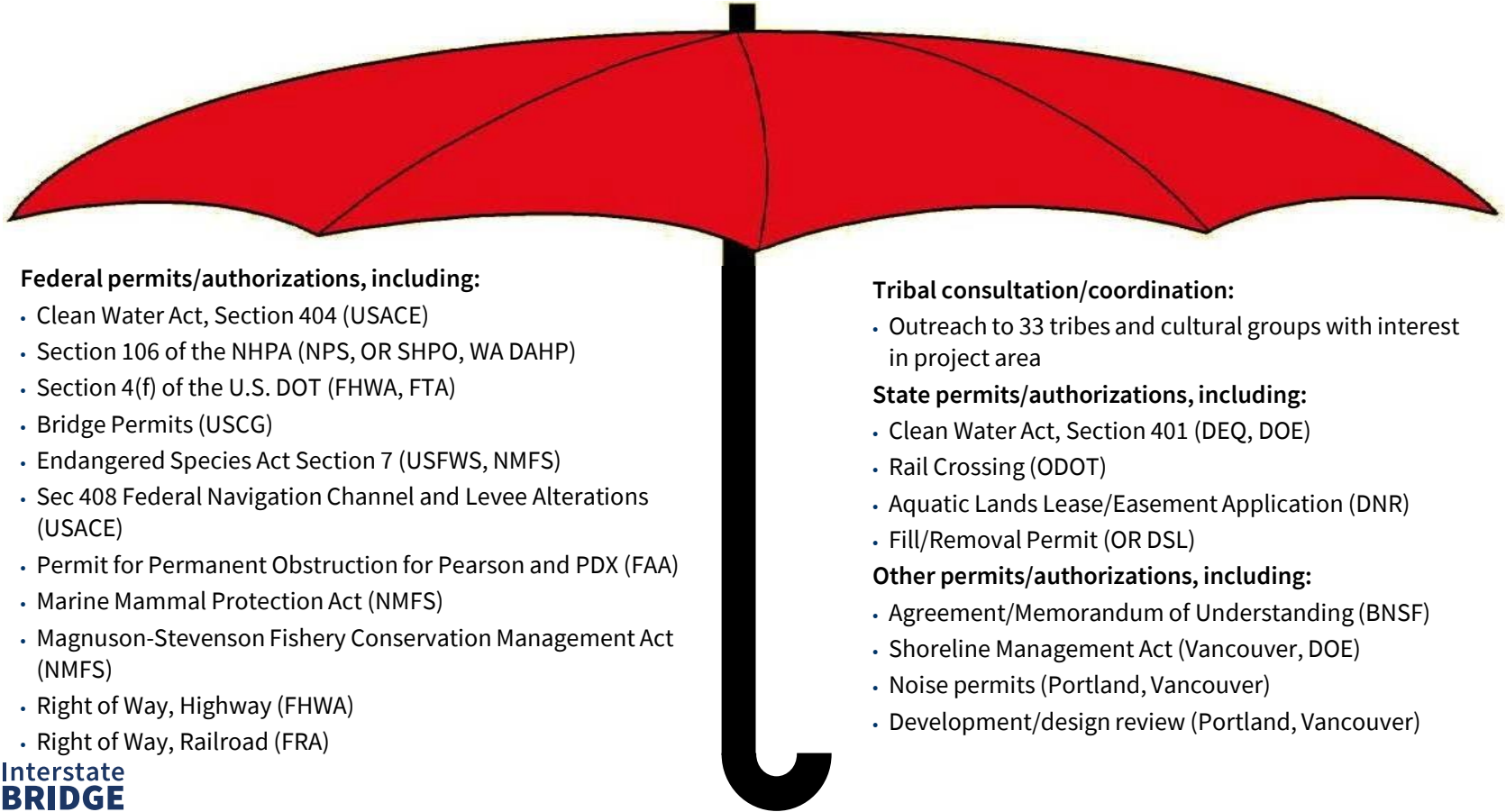
Angela Findley, IBR Environmental Task Lead

# 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)

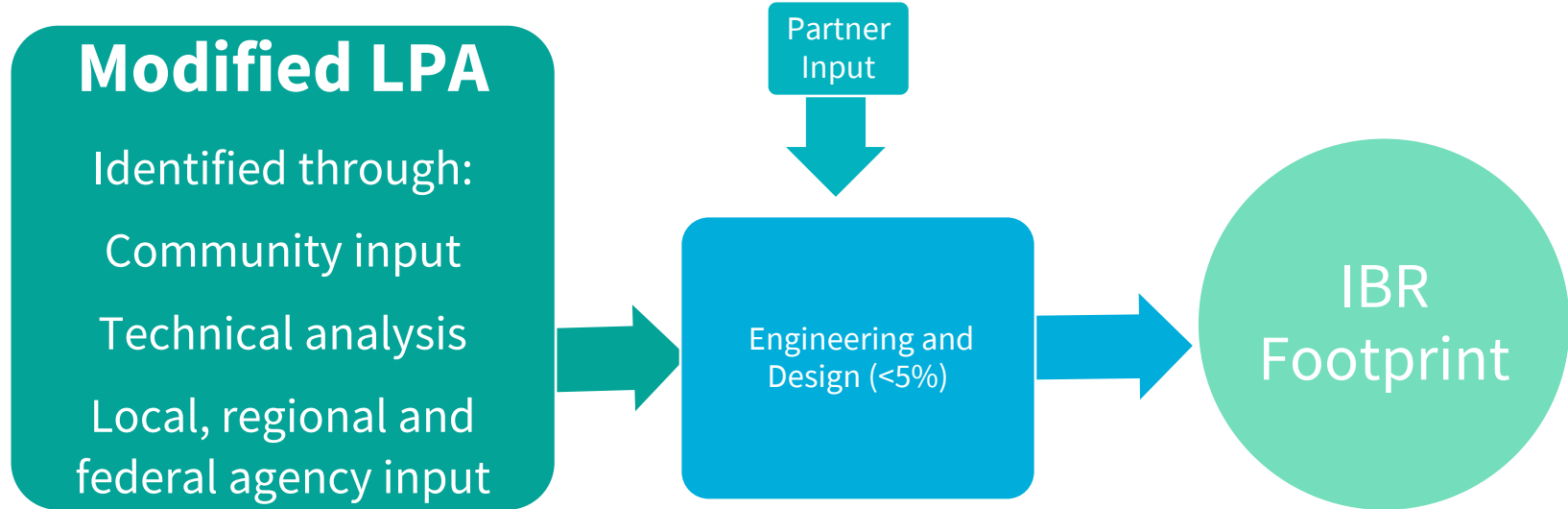
## **Other permits/authorizations, including:**

- 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.

# Determining the Modified LPA footprint for NEPA Analysis



- ▶ Determines area of impact in order to define study area
- ▶ The footprint allows the program to study and understand impacts of the adopted Modified LPA
- ▶ Footprint does not reflect final design or decisions

# 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**

# Make Your Opinion Heard

- ▶ **Comments that provide specific detail enable the program team to better understand your preferences or concerns, such as:**
  - **Components of the Modified LPA**
    - *What do you see as the most important benefits of the Modified LPA?*
    - *How can the Modified LPA be improved?*
  - **Environmental impact and benefit analysis**
    - *Is it clear how conclusions were made and do they make sense?*
    - *Are any impacts or benefits missing that should be considered?*
  - **Potential mitigation options for adverse impacts**
    - *Are there other mitigation measures that the program should consider?*

# 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?



# IBR Community Engagement

Salome Chimuku, IBR Community Engagement Team

# Fairs and Festivals

This summer, IBR attended the following events occurring within the program area:

- ▶ Good in the Hood (*June 25-26*)
- ▶ Vancouver Pride (*July 9*)
- ▶ Vancouver Farmers Market (*August 13*)
- ▶ King Farmers Market (*August 21*)
- ▶ Kenton Farmers Market (*September 7*)



# Fairs and Festivals

- ▶ 500+ direct interactions
- ▶ Generally very positive in tone
- ▶ Direct quotes:
  - “What do I need to say to get a bridge?”
  - “Terribly disappointed when the project didn’t happen last time.”
  - “Excited that transit will be coming to Vancouver. It will encourage more people to take transit.”
  - “I’d use light rail every day.”
  - “I’m really excited about light rail.”
  - “Keep centering equity.”
  - “Congratulations, this new effort is phenomenal!”
  - “Great job!”
  - “I love it!”



# Upcoming Engagement

## ▶ Fall 2022

- Briefings to community based organizations and neighborhoods
- Program area tours
- Community Roundtable: Why Equity Matters in Infrastructure – September 28

## ▶ Winter/Spring 2023

- Mini Grant partnerships with CBOs
- Affinity listening sessions
- Online and in-person open house
- Community Briefings

## ▶ Summer 2023

- Public hearings for the SDEIS
- Community Briefings
- Affinity listening sessions
- Event tabling



# Questions or Feedback?

# Public comment



# Comment Instructions

- ▶ Through Zoom:
  - ▶ Please use the link located in the meeting description on the YouTube meeting page or on the IBR EAG meeting webpage.
  - ▶ Commenters will be allowed to turn on their webcams, but will not be allowed to share their screens and will be removed from the room once the public comment period concludes.
- ▶ By phone:
  - ▶ Dial 253-215-8782
  - ▶ Meeting ID: 986 0940 5983
  - ▶ Passcode: 701376
  - ▶ Dial \*9 to raise your hand
  - ▶ Dial \*6 to unmute yourself
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation.
- ▶ Commenters will be given 2 minutes to speak.

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



or



# Comment Instructions

## To submit comment after the meeting:



- ▶ Fill out the comment form on the program website or email your comments to [info@interstatebridge.org](mailto:info@interstatebridge.org) with “EAG Public Comment” in the subject line.



- ▶ Call **888-503-6735** and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message.
- ▶ Written comments need to explicitly say “**EAG Public Comment**” in the subject line or in the body of the message for them to be identified and distributed to EAG members.
- ▶ All written comments must be received prior to 48 hours in advance of each upcoming meeting in order to be distributed to advisory group members. Comments received after that point will be distributed to members in advance of their next meeting.

# Wrap up

- Takeaways
- Meeting evaluation
- Next meeting: October 17, 5:30 – 7:30pm



Thank you!