

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP KICK-OFF MEETING

Subject: Community Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Date and Time: January 27, 2021 4:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream

WELCOME AND CAG INTRODUCTIONS

CAG co-facilitator Lisa Keohokalole Schauer introduced herself and explained the intention for the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the meeting series. After reviewing the meeting agenda, she explained the meeting outcomes and introduced the IBR team members: Greg Johnson, Lynn Valenter, and Ed Washington.

Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program Administrator Greg Johnson introduced himself and elaborated on what he hopes to come from the CAG. He clarified that this group is not to determine if the bridge will be built, but how it will be built.

The CAG co-facilitator Johnell Bell initiated member introductions and each member introduced themselves.

IBR PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Greg discussed the characteristics of the program area and transportation issues that will need to be addressed, including:

- Cascadia Subduction
- Traffic impacts
- Inter-state transit needs
- Crash frequency
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Substandard bridge design

Greg then reviewed the IBR program timeline and how this group must continue to advise program milestones, purpose, and progress. There is a lot of work to be done between now and when construction is scheduled to begin in 2025. In the near future, the IBR program needs the CAG to help them establish a purpose and need, come up with innovative outreach that accommodates COVID-19, and identify the range of alternatives.

Greg explained the purpose of the CAG, in relation to the Executive Steering Group (ESG) and the Equity Advisory Group (EAG), and how these groups are integral to the decision-making framework.

MEETING AGREEMENTS

Johnell explained how the CAG is expected to interact and operate over the next two years. The agreements are as follows:

1. Put relationships first
2. Keep focused on our common goal
3. Notice power dynamics in the room
4. Create a space for multiple truths and norms
5. Be kind and brave
6. Practice examining racially biased systems and processes
7. Look for learning

Johnell asked the groups what is missing from the agreements and asked for confirmation of shared values. Advisory Group members provided the following comments:

- It would be helpful to determine what's missing to have a physical copy. How do we fit in with the EAG?
- When it comes time for decisions to be made, what is the method for doing that?
- Be accountable for things you commit to, like offering something by a certain date; hold yourself accountable to that.
- A member reminded everyone that there is another sovereign in the area and that is the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. We [the Cowlitz Indian Tribe representative] would like to invite you and your team up to the headquarters office in Longview because there is a lot of perspective there that will better the project, ensure safety, protect cultural, historic, and natural resources.
- Many of us CAG members are representatives of our community and must represent their voices, whether we agree personally or not; it is important to keep that in mind through the process.
- The ability to ask for information and knowledge. Asking for briefings and additional information.
- Mutual respect should be added between all of us.

WHAT ARE THE INITIAL BUCKETS OF WORK FOR THE CAG?

Lisa introduced Chris Regan as the IBR Program Environmental Manager.

Chris Regan thanked the group for being present and engaged before diving into the initial work of the CAG. He explained that there has been 10 years of prior planning efforts including an Environmental Assessment (EA), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and public comments. He provided an overview of the engagement planning calendar and explanation of responsibilities and who those responsibilities are intended to inform (i.e. ODOT, WSDOT). The program team will look to the CAG for input at each stage of planning throughout 2021 for thoughts and expertise.

Chris shared the history of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) environmental review process and why the community is critical to every transportation project. He explained that the previous Columbia River Crossing project landed on a Purpose and Need and Vision and Values and explained there are gaps from that effort that the program seeks to fill now.

Question and Answer

CAG Member: there is great representation on this group. I'm curious how you engage with current, daily users?

- Response: we will be doing origin-designation studies in a randomized way. That's one of the key things to understand is how these people are using this in their everyday life. We will also be looking at models owned by Metro and the RTC to look at land uses and future uses.

CAG Member: with the bi-state legislative groups, is it their responsibility to say, "yes we are going to do this," or are they going to come back with more information?

- Response: the ESG will report their findings to me [Chris] and the IBR team. So, it's the IBR team that will take information to the bi-state legislative group because they decide what gets funded and are representative of the people. They will say, "have you thought about this, we don't like this," etc. And then we will bring that back to the CAG for further discussion, which is when we can decide if we want to challenge their feedback.

CAG Member: this is related to Andrew's study. I am wondering if that will include freight traffic in the area because trucks typically avoid I-5 and choose I-205.

- Response: we will be looking at those issues as well as those who choose to take an alternative route. We will also be asking CAG member organizations for information you have about freight movement throughout the region.

CAG Member: for the community engagement piece, I have seen this part be too quick or brief because we are trying to hit a deadline. I want to continue to remind people that community engagement and equity are so important to this project.

- Response: we have assured the ESG that we have to stick to a schedule, but if we are having productive conversations, we are going to keep having those conversations until a verdict and consensus is reached. If we keep going back to past conversations, we will never get this done. This is the second time at bat for this program and projects that take 3 attempts to complete, almost never get done. Voices need to be heard and we are committed to that, but the project needs to get done.

CAG Member: is the current bridge being removed, repurposed or replaced?

- Response: we have looked at these options and the plan currently is to replace the existing bridge.

CAG Member: how will federal representative and legislators being involved?

- Response: we have a governmental affairs team that manages how we reach out to local, state and federal representatives. This is an important link because they can help to determine funding as the project moves forward.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

CAG Members or Alternatives

Attendees	Organization
Ashton Simpson	Oregon Walks
Bill Iyall	Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Bill Prows	Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs
Dena Horton	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Diana Nunez	Oregon Environmental Council
Irina Phillips	At-Large
Jana Jarvis	OR Trucking Association
Javier Navarro	League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Jeffrey Temple	I-205 Business Interest
Kevin Perkey	Workforce SW WA
Marcus Mundy	Coalition for Communities of Color
Mark Riker	Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council
Martha Wiley	At-large

Attendees	Organization
Michael A. Martin-Tellis	Vancouver Neighborhood Association/Neighborhood Transportation Safety Alliance
Michael Kelly	Human Services Council
Michelle Brewer	Zoominfo
Mikaela Williams	At-Large
Robert Camarillo	Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council
Robin Richardson	At-Large
Sam Kim	At-Large
Sheri Call	WA Trucking Association
Andrew Hoan	Portland Business Alliance
Thomas W. Gentry	At-Large
Tom Hickey	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Lynn Valenter	Co-Chair
Ed Washington	Co-Chair

Facilitators and Presenters

Attendees	Organization
Greg Johnson	IBR Program Administrator
Chris Regan	IBR Program Environmental Manager
Johnell Bell	IBR CAG Facilitator
Lisa Keohokalole Schauer	IBR CAG Facilitator

February 3, 2021

Additional Participants

Approximately 60 members of the public, partner agency staff, and the IBR Team viewed the meeting via the Zoom webinar and the YouTube livestream during the meeting.

MEETING RECORD AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

A recording of the meeting is available here:

<https://youtu.be/4F0zEK81GbM>

Meeting Recording

The meeting materials are available here:

<https://interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cag-january-meeting/>