

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #8

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Community Advisory Group Meeting #8 Summary

Date and Time: July 1, 2021 4:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream

WELCOME & OUTCOMES

Ed Washington, CAG co-chair, welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, CAG co-facilitator, reviewed the technical instructions for the meeting.

BRIDGE STORY VIEDO SERIES LAUNCH

The CAG viewed the first Bridge Stories Video created, starring CAG member Randali Desantos-Benromdhane. Lisa explained that these types of videos will be an on-going campaign by the IBR program and encouraged other CAG members to reach out about sharing their bridge stories.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Greg Johnson, IBR program Administrator, provided an update on the four major questions that the Program is trying to answer:

1. Are we fully replacing the North Portland Harbor Bridge?
2. Will there be an interchange on Hayden Island, or will it have a different access point?
3. How many lanes will there be across the bridge?
4. What type of high-capacity transit will be going across the bridge?

The Program team will be gathering data and working to answer those questions with the goal of having answers in early 2022. Answering these questions is a key to moving the Program forward with the federal partners for reevaluation.

Question and Answer

CAG Member: what type of transit will be analyzed and how deep will the analysis go? Manufacturing, power usage, environmental impact of the power usage, etc.?

- Greg: yes, those issues will be analyzed as well as capital costs, operational costs, energy usage, and impacts on greenhouse gas.

CAG Member: Congressional offices have said without light rail the bridge project will not happen, have you received agreement from their offices that other solutions will be considered?

- Greg: We are bound by the National Environmental Policy Act to follow a specific process to get to an answer. We must follow a standard in order to receive funding, while the elected officials are more influenced by public opinion and politics.

CAG Member: Is the possibility of Clark County taking on the debt of Tri-Met a concern?

- Greg: We will be sitting with Tri-Met and C-TRAN to look at all the models and information we find. The issue of one organization assuming debt of another is not something the Program will be trying to negotiate.

CAG Member: Why are there eight new metal support columns on the pedestrian walkway on Hayden Island? Will the construction of the new Safeway make a difference?

- Frank Green, Assistant Program Administrator: I will be discussing the impact of the Safeway construction later in the meeting. As for the columns, the program is aware of these columns, but I do not know all the details on the need those supports but we can ask ODOT to provide more information.

CAG Member: In the climate session, one solution that was brought up was running the rail through Amtrak and not involve this bridge for public transportation.

- Greg: light rail cannot be run on a heavy rail system, and the light rail bridge is not owned by us, it is owned by BNSF and that bridge is older than the two bridges that carry I-5. It sounds like a good idea but there are too many complications for what we are trying to achieve.

CAG Member: Where are we at with the level of confidence in funding?

- Greg: The Washington and Oregon legislatures are looking closely at how to fund this. Having funding will be critical in 2023 and 2024. Both legislatures are aware of the tight timeline and have committed to having answers for us before then.

JUNE 3 CAG LISTENING SESSION

Jason Hagen, IBR Program team, summarized the reflections, comments and questions from CAG members at the June 3rd CAG Meeting. Three of the six transportation problems that have already been identified were among the major themes reflected in CAG comments, as was themes that are directly addressed in [the Community Values and Priorities document](#). Jason encouraged members to reach out to the team if they feel the themes and thoughts from the meeting were not fully captured.

The IBR team then answered questions that had come up in the meeting including the following:

1. Can tolling begin before the project even starts to manage demand?

Greg: Tolling is essential to operating and funding the bridge. Pre-completion tolling is one idea being looked at, which is not to manage traffic but to help raise revenue.

2. How are public comments followed up on?

Frank Green: All comments are reviewed and forwarded to the proper team member for response. All questions asked in public comments are responded to and if a question is asked frequently, it may be added to the FAQs on the Program website. Many solutions or alternatives that are proposed have already been considered in previous planning work, encompassed in the [Myths and Facts](#) section of the website.

3. What is the plan for congressional engagement and the impact to the program?

Greg: Elected officials are our partners in building this bridge and will continue to stay informed.

CAG Member: Just to be clear, the third bridge option that the program is not considering does not refer to a local access bridge on Hayden Island?

- Greg: Correct, access to Hayden Island is a key feature of this project and multiple options for it are still being considered.

THE IBR SOLUTION: DESIGN OPTIONS

Frank presented a list of regional context and physical changes that lead the program toward being able to consider the different categories for design options that he also shared.

CAG meeting guest: I want to remind the group of the importance of providing access to the water to indigenous communities. If WSDOT will have access to the water through properties, the Cowlitz Tribe want considerations as well.

- Frank: Those details are on our mind, and we want to continue to discuss them. The program will continue to engage tribal council through the government-to-government engagement strategy that has been put together.

CAG Member: As the tolling conversation continues to develop, ensure we are continuing to center equity.

- Greg: As a reminder, the IBR team will not oversee the setting of tolls, it will be under the purview of the Washington State Transportation Commission and the Oregon Legislature. We will present them with equitable solutions with the hope that any tolling will be equitable.

CAG Member: How will it be ensured that tolling doesn't lead to bottlenecks elsewhere as people try to avoid the tolls?

- Frank: We are considering these impacts in our models and analysis. We want to know how high-capacity transit and active transportation options will shift how trips are being taken. We are looking at the highway system as a whole and the I-5 corridor will be the quickest way to get through to ensure that avoidance trips to I-205 or someplace else are avoided.

CAG Member: What is the communication and outreach plan for the houseless community?

- Lisa: We have a strategy and will follow up via email of how we are working with community groups to engage with that community as it is a part of our equity commitment.

SCREENING CRITERIA AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Angela Findley, IBR Program Environmental Lead, discussed screening criteria and the role they play in screening design options.

CAG Member: How does the purpose and need fit into the screening criteria?

- Angela: The purpose and need was the first step to developing the screening criteria, as all solutions must satisfy the purpose and need. Six basic pass-fail questions were designed to specifically address the purpose and need.

CAG Member: Each example in the presentation only has outcomes and performance measures or outcomes and screening criteria, wouldn't there be cases with all three - outcome, performance measure, and screening criteria?

- Angela: Those were just examples to help provide some context but yes, there will be cases like that.

CAG Member: Do you see a case where CAG members vote on screening criteria or performance measures?

- Angela: I'm not sure if people would vote but certainly CAG members will be helping us evaluate the screening criteria and design options and help us shape them.

CAG Member: Will CAG members have a chance to design screening questions?

- Angela: yes

Ed thanked everyone for being here as their input is really so important and stressed Greg's previous comment that working with elected officials is really vital to the success of the program.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Lynn Valenter, CAG co-chair, alerted the group to the upcoming EAG and ESG meetings in July as well as what's on the agenda for the next CAG meeting. Lynn reminded everyone that this work is important, and they want to give everyone a chance to come, listen, absorb, and weigh in.

Lisa reminded everyone to sign up for the newsletter and how to do so. Additional community working groups will be starting up at the end of August and some CAG members may be reached out to about participating in those or for recommendations for participants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commenter [1:41:36]: Hi, I don't want to take too much time. I just want to express my appreciation for how transparent this process is, and you guys clearly are very invested in its success. And I think, and I mean I can't speak for everyone obviously, but I just think we have such great public officials and concerned citizens, I suppose, who are investing so much in this future. So, thanks so much.

ADJOURN

Ed thanked CAG members for their continued engagement and wonderful input as the program continues to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

CAG Members or Alternatives

Attendees	Organization
Andrew Hoan	Portland Business Alliance
Ashton Simpson	Oregon Walks
Bill Prows	Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs
Dena Horton	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Diana Nunez	Oregon Environmental Council
Dr. Karin Edwards	Clark College
Ed Washington	Co-Chair
Irina Phillips	At-large
Jana Jarvis	OR Trucking Association
Jasmine Tolbert	Vancouver NAACP
Jeffrey Temple	I-205 Business Interest
Kevin Perkey	Workforce SW WA
Lynn Valenter	Co-Chair

Attendees	Organization
Marcus Mundy	Coalition for Communities of Color
Martha Wiley	WA Transit Representative
Michael A. Martin-Tellis	Vancouver neighborhood Association
Michael Kelly	Human Services Council
Michelle Brewer	Columbia River Economic Development Council, Zoominfo
Mikaela Williams	At-large
Robin Richardson	At-large
Ryan Webb	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribe
Sam Kim	At-large
Sheri Call	WA Trucking Association
Thomas W. Gentry	At-large
Tom Hickey	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Victor Caesar	OR Transit Representative
Whitney Mosback (and guest Cassandra)	Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Facilitators and Presenters

Attendees	Organization
Jason Hagen	IBR Program Staff
Greg Johnson	IBR program Administrator
Angela Findley	IBR Environmental Lead

Attendees	Organization
Frank Green	IBR Assistant Program Administrator
Lisa Keohokalole Schauer	IBR CAG Co-Facilitator

Additional Participants

38 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/Akmntzmvlo4>

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here:

<https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cag-july-1-2021-meeting/>