



Identifying Climate-Smart Solutions

Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions globally. Our transportation infrastructure, from roadway design and transit facilities to local street networks, play a role in affecting travel patterns, vehicle miles traveled, and greenhouse gas emissions. Curbing the effects of the climate crisis requires a collective effort to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, develop walkable communities, and provide local access to jobs, affordable housing, and essential services.

The IBR program supports local, regional, and state climate goals—including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions—by identifying safe, efficient, and accessible multimodal solutions for people traveling across the Interstate Bridge. Climate considerations guide all areas of work including design, construction, operations, and maintenance.

Transportation Options

- ▶ Improve access, connectivity, and reliability of cross river high-capacity transit service
- ▶ Provide low-stress, accessible facilities for people who walk, bike, or roll
- ▶ Use equitable tolling and pricing strategies to help improve travel time reliability and fund bridge construction
- ▶ Optimize traffic flow and improve safety through use of ramp-to-ramp connections, known as auxiliary lanes

Construction, Operations, and Maintenance

- ▶ Zero waste deconstruction goals
- ▶ Seek local sources for materials and maximize use of recycled/low-carbon footprint materials
- ▶ Reduce equipment emissions with low-carbon fuel
- ▶ Explore carbon offsets for construction and ongoing operations

Climate Resiliency

- ▶ Build structures resilient to climate disruptions (e.g., rising Columbia River tidal levels, changes in rain and flooding patterns, heat)
- ▶ Design to provide continued mobility during climate events (e.g., smoke, flooding, excessive heat)
- ▶ Use native and climate resilient species in restoration planting

The effects of climate change have a disproportionate impact on the physical, mental, financial, and cultural wellbeing of low-income communities and communities of color. As a program committed to centering equity, climate considerations will be evaluated for their impact on these communities.

Climate Milestones

- ▶ Hosted a public listening session to learn about community values, concerns, and priorities relevant to climate and transportation
- ▶ Initiated a climate technical work group with partner agency staff to inform program design and coordinate efforts
- ▶ Developed a climate framework to define goals and objectives
- ▶ Developed climate-focused screening metrics to use when evaluating design options
- ▶ Established analysis of local, regional, and state goals and policies related to climate outcomes and determined how the IBR program could support
- ▶ Begin evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the program and develop strategies to improve outcomes
- ▶ Work with agency partners and the public to develop plans to address unavoidable impacts

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