



IBR Executive Steering Group Meeting

May 20, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

www.interstatebridge.org

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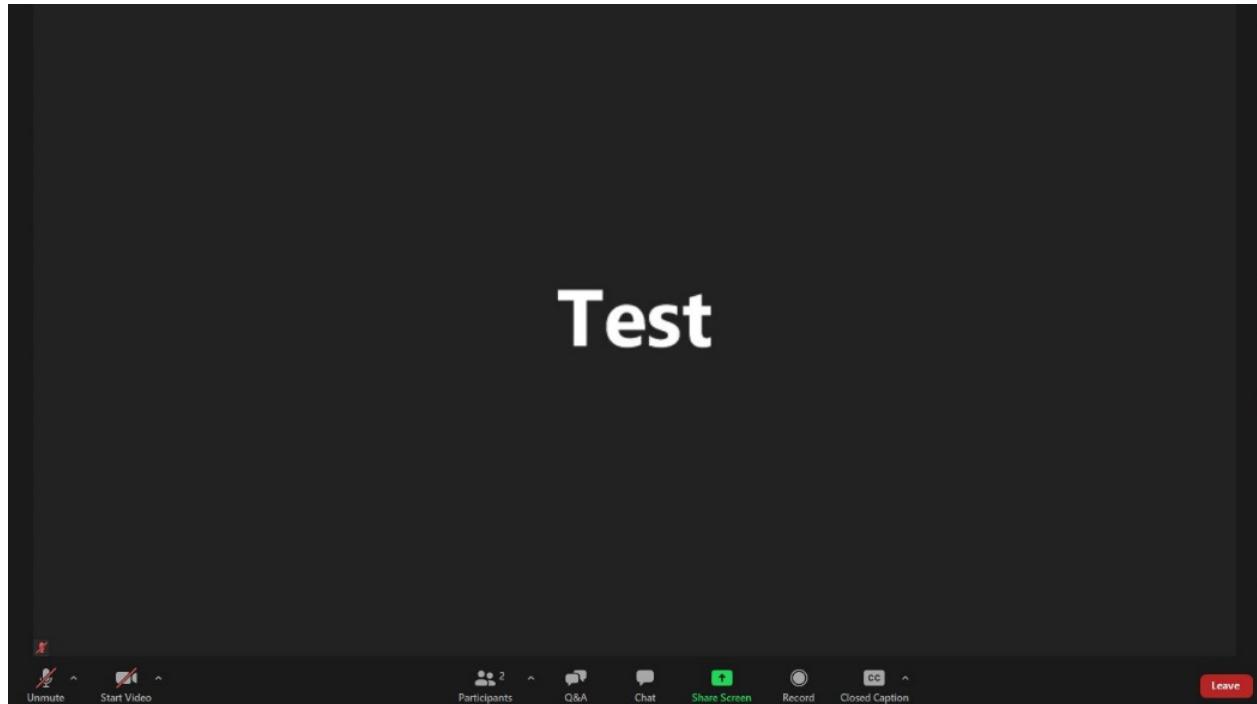
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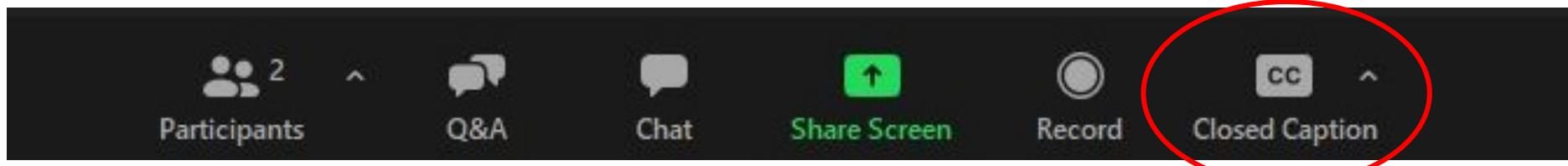
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2. Click on the “CC” icon and a separate window with captions will appear.



ASL Interpretation

- ▶ In an effort to center equity, the IBR program has added American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation for both Zoom and YouTube Livestream.
- ▶ For those watching on YouTube, when the presentation is displayed, an ASL interpreter will be visible at the top right.
 - You will be able to hear the presenters, but you will not be able to see them.
- ▶ Before speaking, please state your name and affiliation to help attendees identify who is talking.

Webinar Participation Tips

- ▶ Thank you for joining us today!
- ▶ Please join audio by either phone or computer, not both. We encourage panelists to turn on your video.
- ▶ Please keep your audio on mute when not speaking.
- ▶ 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 with “ESG Public Comment” in the subject line
 - Call 888-503-6735 and state “ESG Public Comment” in your message





Welcome, Introductions, and Brief Updates from Around the Region

Program Updates

- ▶ **Greg Johnson, Program Administrator**

- **Welcome and updates:**

- *Update on Bi-State Legislative Committee*
 - *Agency technical work sessions underway*

- ▶ **Executive Steering Group Members**

- ▶ **Deb Nudelman, Facilitator**



Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
10:00-10:15 am	Welcome, Introductions, Proposed Agenda, and Updates
10:15-10:45 am	Information and Discussion: Framing Equity
10:45-11:05 am	Information: Update on Federal Guidance and IBR Approach Moving Forward
11:05-11:40 am	Input and Feedback: Preparing for the Bi-State Legislative Committee
11:40-11:50 am	Opportunity for Public Input
11:50-12:00 pm	Confirm Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
12:00 pm	Adjourn

Meeting Ground Rules

- ▶ Honor the agenda
- ▶ Listen to understand and ask questions to clarify
- ▶ Focus on the substance and content, soft on people and their style
- ▶ Seek common ground
- ▶ Provide a balance of speaking time





Information and Discussion: Framing Equity

Equity: Basic Definition

- ▶ When one's **identity** cannot predict the **outcome**. Absence of inequities and injustices in social sectors that are required for all to thrive. Both an outcome and a process.
- Provides opportunities and access so that every person can achieve their full potential. Equitable treatment involves acknowledging diversity, recognizing and celebrating our differences.

Equity: IBR Definition

The Interstate Bridge Replacement program defines equity in terms of both process and outcomes.

Process Equity means that the program prioritizes access, influence, and decision-making power for marginalized and underserved communities throughout the program in establishing objectives, design, implementation, and evaluation of success.

Outcome Equity is the result of successful Process Equity and is demonstrated by tangible transportation and economic benefits for marginalized and underserved communities.

Equity: IBR Definition, cont.

Marginalized and underserved communities are defined as those who experience and/or have experienced discrimination and exclusion based on identity, such as:

- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
- People with disabilities
- Communities with limited English proficiency (LEP)
- Persons with lower income
- Houseless individuals and families
- Immigrants and refugees
- Young people
- Older adults

Together, Process Equity and Outcome Equity contribute to addressing the impacts of and removing long standing injustices experienced by these communities.

IBR Approach to Centering Equity

- ▶ **Equity Advisory Group (EAG)**
 - Representatives from CBOs, community members from Oregon and Washington, and staff equity leads from project partners.
 - Purpose: provide input and recommendations to program on ways to ensure equitable processes and create equitable outcomes.
- ▶ **Equity framework to guide program**
- ▶ **Targeted outreach opportunities**

IBR Approach to Centering Equity

► Contract specifications:

- Workforce requirements/aspirations (e.g., BIPOC, persons with disabilities % targets, etc.)
- Program investment in pre-apprenticeship & apprenticeship
- DBE participation
 - *DBE goal requirement (as floor not ceiling)*
 - *De-bundling of packages*
- Targeted investments in businesses reflective of program's equity focus

► Community benefits

- Best community use of any ancillary property (e.g., housing, green space, etc.)
- Integrating cultural history into project

Program Equity Definition

(What does 'equity' mean in the context of IBR?)

Equity Objectives

(What do we want to achieve?)

Equity Framework

Measures of Success

(What do we want to measure, how will we measure it?)

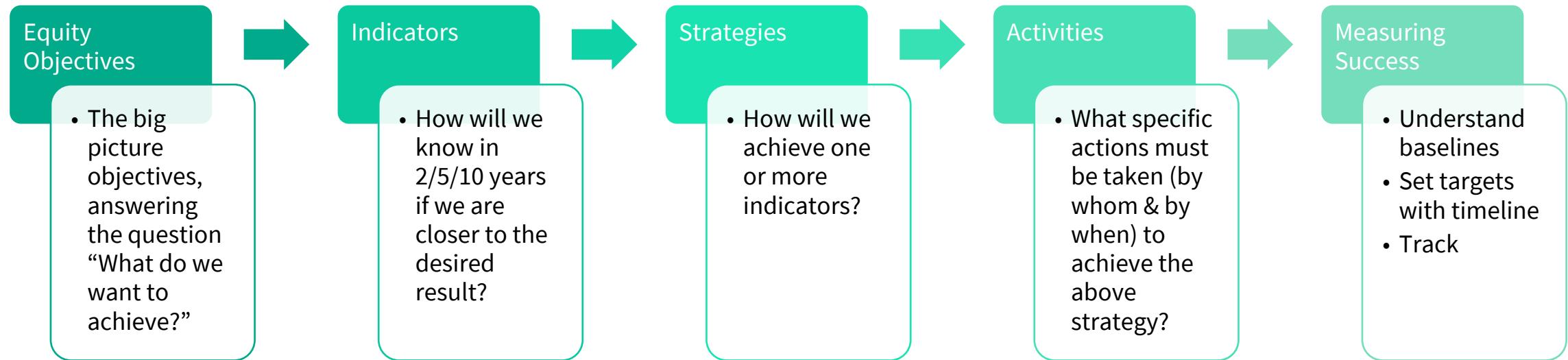
Put into action

(Community engagement, design, construction specifications, etc.)

Equity Objectives

Mobility & Accessibility	Physical Design	Community Benefits	Economic opportunity	Decision-making processes	Avoiding further harm
Improve mobility, accessibility, and connectivity in the program area, with a particular focus on the needs of lower income travelers, people with disabilities, and communities who experience transportation barriers related to the location of affordable housing options.	Integrate equity into the physical design elements of the program.	Find opportunities for and implement local community improvements, in addition to required mitigations.	Ensure that economic opportunities generated by the program, including contracting and workforce development, substantially benefit minority and women owned firms, workers of color, workers with disabilities, and young people.	Meaningfully share access, participation, influence, and decision-making power with historically marginalized communities throughout the course of the program.	<u>Avoid</u> disproportionate impacts on communities of concern while implementing substantial mitigations for any unavoidable, but proportional, impacts.

From Objectives to Screening Criteria and Performance Measures



Demographic Snapshot

	IBR Program Area	Portland- Vancouver Metro Region
People of color (all races/ethnicities besides white non-Hispanic/Latino)	25%	28%
People with disabilities	20%	12%
Low-income households (at/below 200% federal poverty level)	32%	25%
People born outside the U.S.	7%	13%
Households w/ no vehicle	15%	9%
Older adults (65+)	20%	14%
Young people (25 and under)	21%	29%

Source: 2019 ACS (5-year)

People of Color 2010

Source: 2010 ACS (5-year) "People of color" defined as all races/ethnicities besides white non-Hispanic/Latino

Pct. People of Color by Census Tract

- Over 50%
- 30% to 50%
- 20% to 30%
- Less than 20%

In 2010, people of color made up 25% of the Portland-Vancouver Metro region's population.

Washington

Clark College

Approximate Program Area
(26% People of Color)

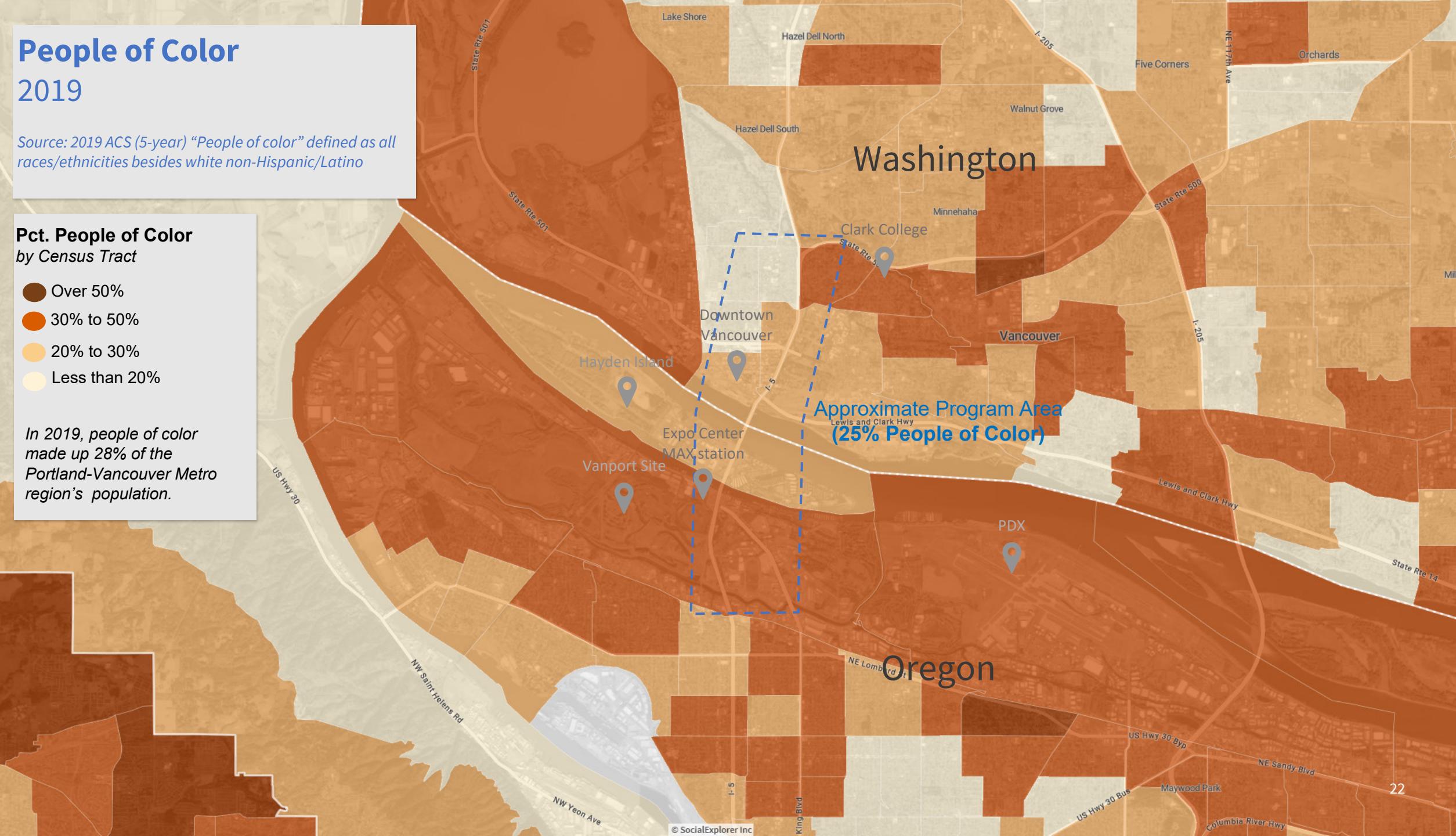
People of Color 2019

Source: 2019 ACS (5-year) "People of color" defined as all races/ethnicities besides white non-Hispanic/Latino

Pct. People of Color by Census Tract

- Over 50%
- 30% to 50%
- 20% to 30%
- Less than 20%

In 2019, people of color made up 28% of the Portland-Vancouver Metro region's population.



Low Income Households

2010

Source: 2010 ACS (5-year). "Low income" defined as households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

Pct. Low-income by Census Tract

- Over 50%
- 30% to 50%
- 10% to 30%
- Less than 10%

In 2010, 29% of households in the Portland-Vancouver Metro region were low-income.

Washington

Oregon

Low Income Households

2019

Source: 2019 ACS (5-year). "Low income" defined as households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

Pct. Low-income by Census Tract

- Over 50%
- 30% to 50%
- 10% to 30%
- Less than 10%

In 2019, 25% of households in the Portland-Vancouver Metro region were low-income.

Washington

Clark College

Approximate Program Area
(32% low-income)

PDX

Oregon

Older Adults (age 65+)

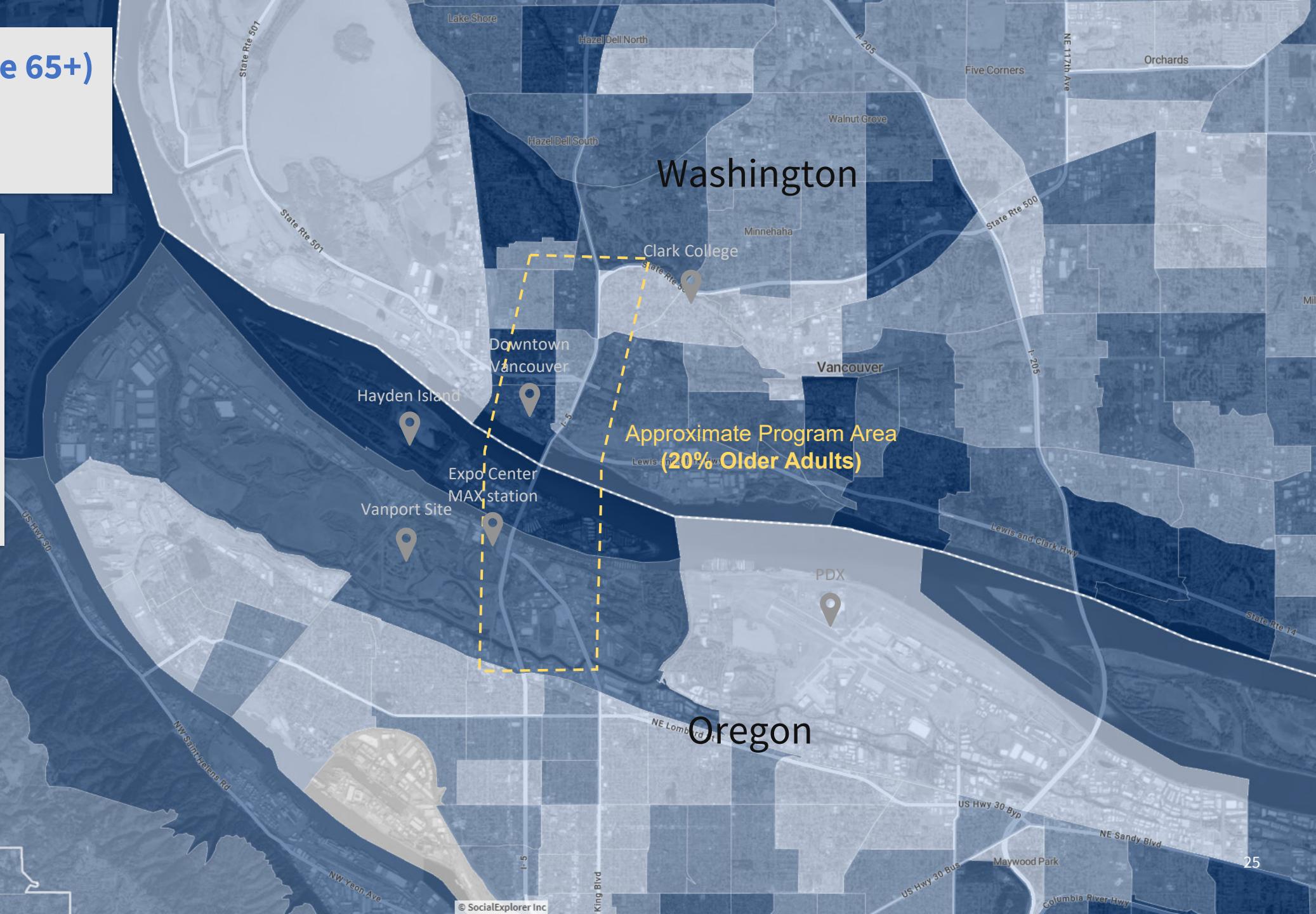
2019

Source: 2019 ACS (5-year)

Pct. Over 65 by Census Tract

- Over 20%
- 15% to 20%
- 10% to 15%
- Less than 10%

In 2019, 14% of the Portland-Vancouver Metro region population was over 65 years old.



Households without a vehicle

2019

Source: 2019 ACS (5-year)

Pct. of households without a vehicle by Census Tract

- Over 33%
- 25% to 33%
- 10% to 25%
- Less than 10%

In 2019, 9% of households in
the Portland-Vancouver Metro
region did not own a vehicle.

Washington

Approximate Program Area
(15% without a vehicle)

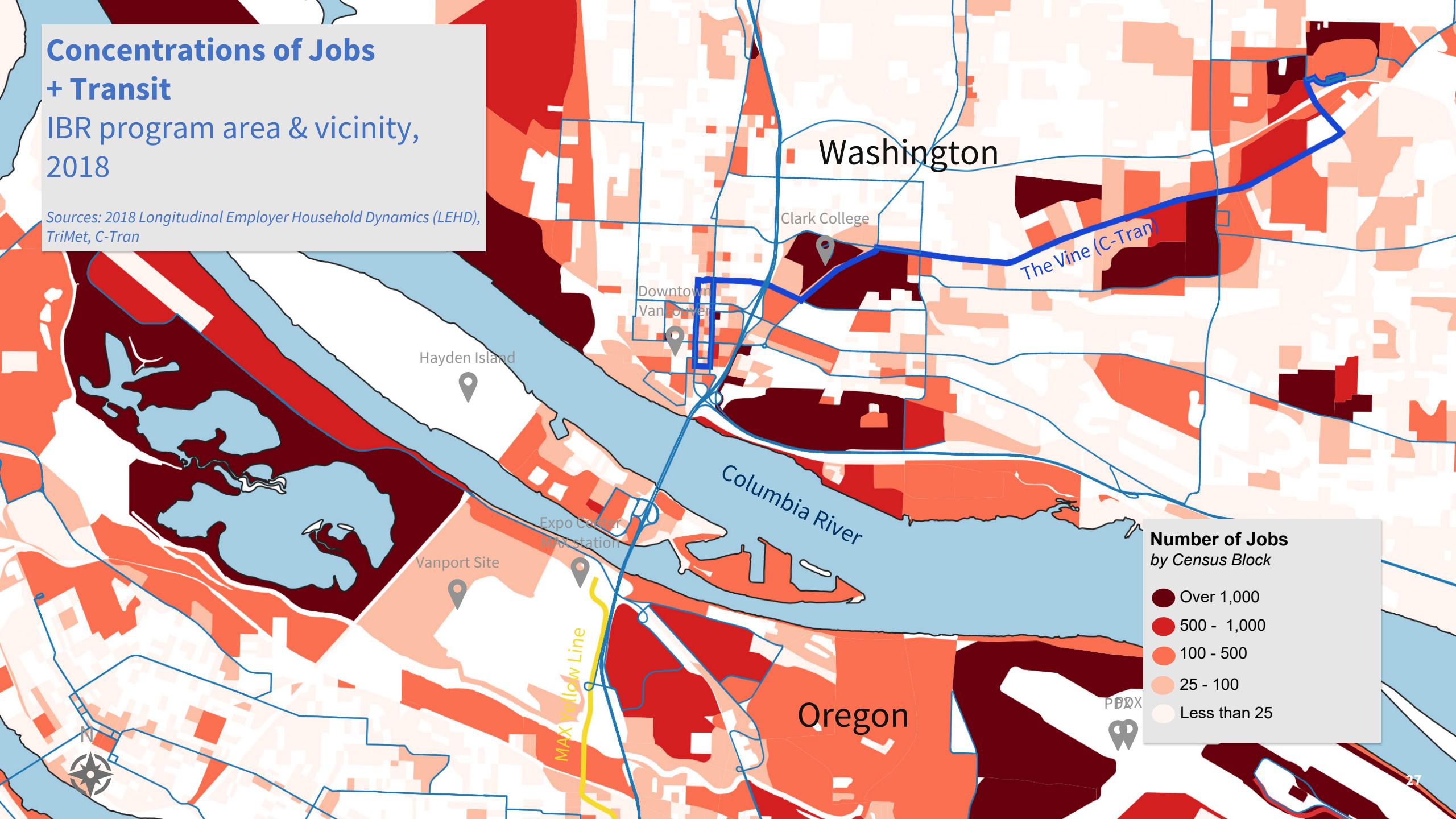
Oregon

Concentrations of Jobs

+ Transit

IBR program area & vicinity,
2018

Sources: 2018 Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD),
TriMet, C-Tran



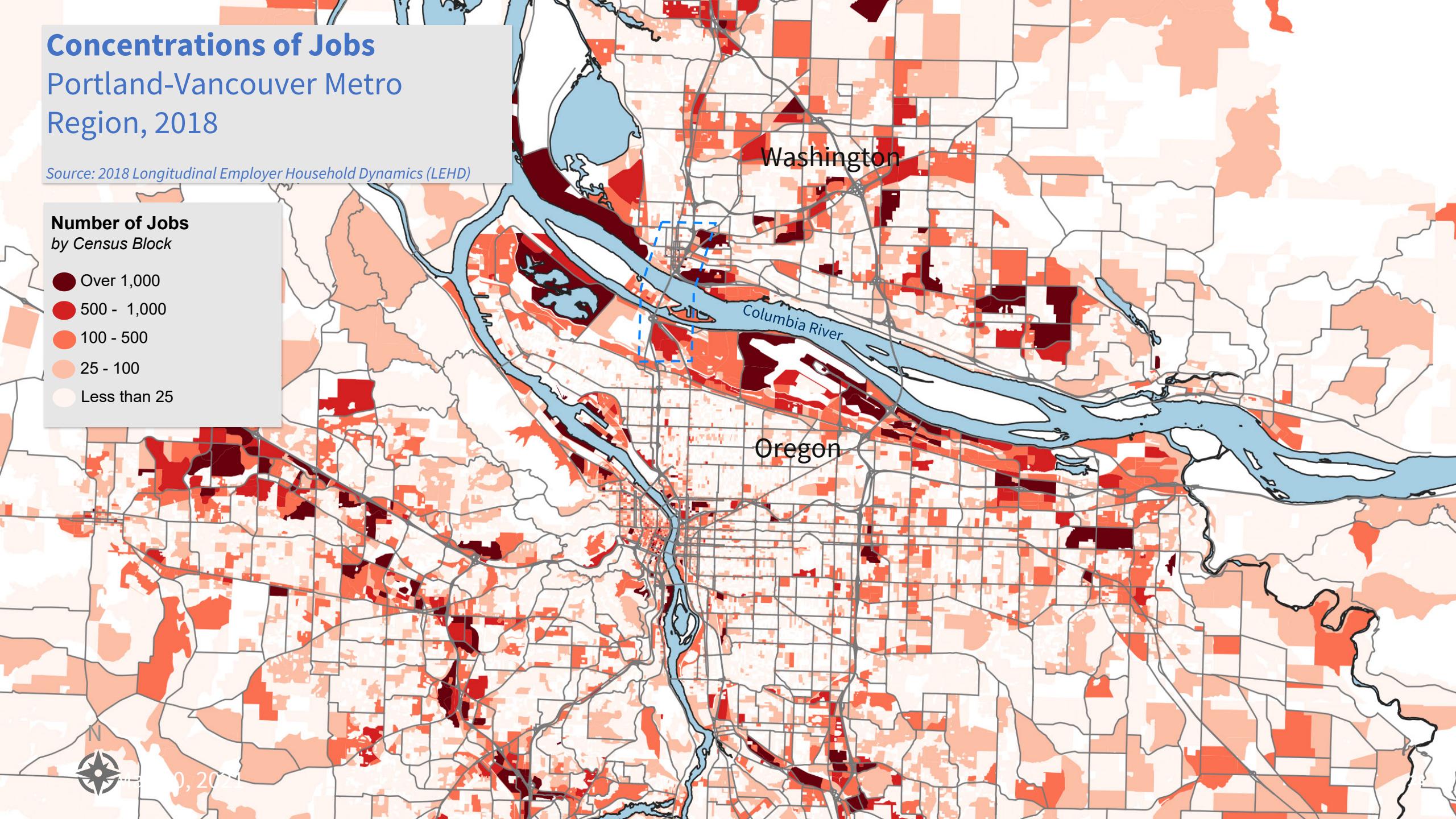
Concentrations of Jobs

Portland-Vancouver Metro
Region, 2018

Source: 2018 Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD)

Number of Jobs by Census Block

- Over 1,000
- 500 - 1,000
- 100 - 500
- 25 - 100
- Less than 25



May 17th EAG Meeting

What we heard:

- ▶ Need to understand more about how people are moving
 - Transportation modes
 - Commute times
- ▶ Want to see more demographic overlays/intersections
 - E.g., BIPOC + income
- ▶ Identify how data can inform anti-displacement strategies

EAG Workplan (April – August 2021)



- ✓ Refine & recommend program **Equity Definition**
- ✓ Refine overarching **Equity Objectives**
- ▶ Develop and recommend **performance measures** (measures of success) and **screening criteria** (how we evaluate design options)
- ▶ Provide **design recommendations** & feedback based on definition, objectives



Questions and Group Discussion



Information: Update on Federal Guidance and IBR Approach Moving Forward

IBR Program Status

- ▶ Current work leads us to a NEPA re-evaluation, which will determine the next steps in the environmental process.
- ▶ In March 2021, the IBR program team requested written guidance on the process impacts of updating the Purpose and Need Statement to include climate and equity considerations.
- ▶ The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provided a written response, this week, on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Federal Guidance – Key Points

- ▶ “FHWA and FTA strongly support consideration of climate change and equity in transportation projects.”
- ▶ “...changes to the Purpose and Need section are particularly sensitive since it is so critical to determining the range of alternatives that must be considered.”
- ▶ “...the proposed modifications to the [Purpose and Need] and FEIS are potentially substantial enough to require a new EIS and NEPA process...”

Federal Guidance – Key Points

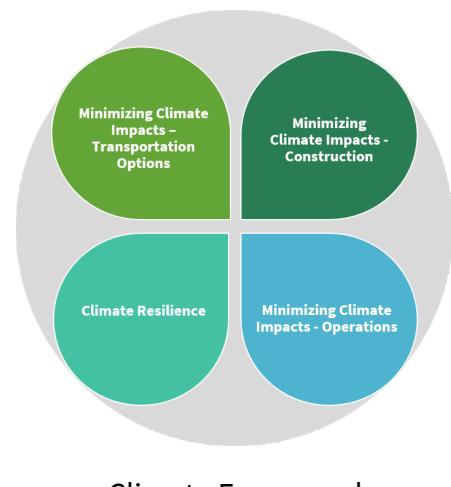
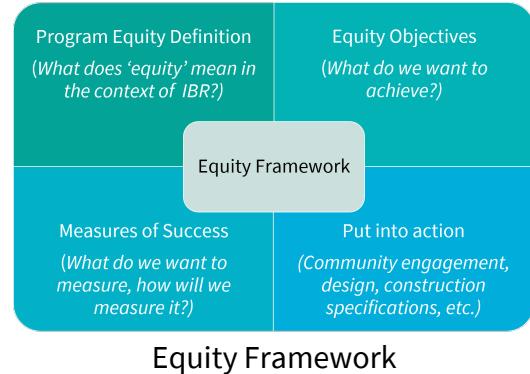
- ▶ “...FHWA and FTA believe there are many opportunities to address climate change and equity with meaningful mitigation measures and actions.”
- ▶ We strongly encourage the IBR Team to consider ways to include climate change and equity in the NEPA process as you advance the project forward.”

Federal Response – Program Takeaways

- ▶ Any effort to identify new alternatives would likely lead to similar conclusions since the previously identified transportation problems continue to exist today.
- ▶ Reopening this work would extend the program schedule, delaying the implementation of a solution to address transportation problems in the IBR corridor and adding significant expense to complete work previously completed, with a strong likelihood that similar solutions would be identified.
- ▶ The program and our federal partners are aligned to strongly support including equity and climate change considerations in both the environmental process as well as with outcomes.

We are committed to embedding equity and climate into the program.

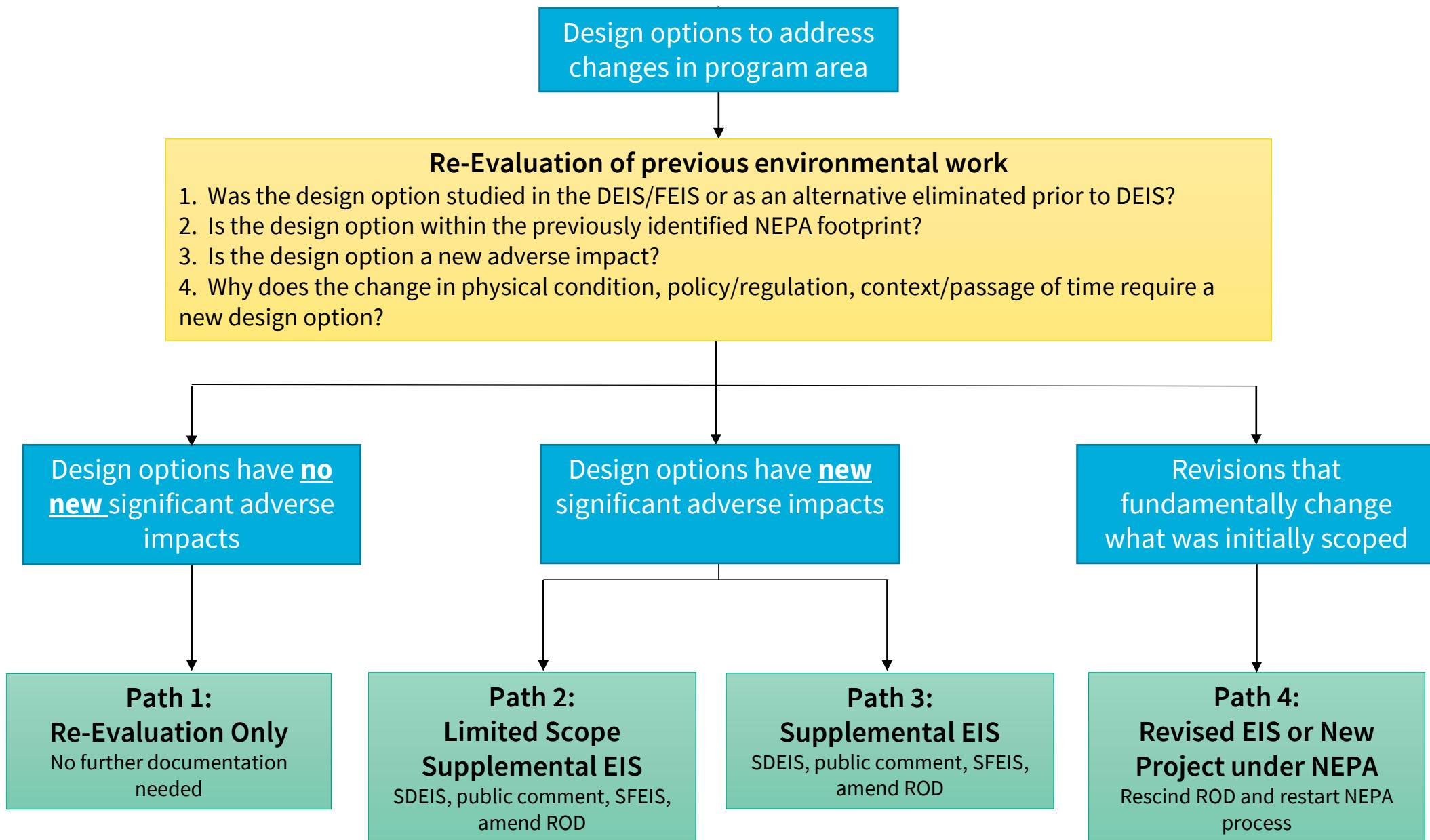
- The current IBR approach is committed to embedding equity and climate in actionable and measurable ways.
- Using **equity and climate frameworks**, these considerations will be addressed **throughout design and construction** in:
 - ▶ Screening criteria to evaluate design
 - ▶ Performance measures
 - ▶ Design and construction specifications
 - ▶ Letters of agreement
 - ▶ Program commitments: community enhancements and mitigation



Understanding the Re-Evaluation Process

- ▶ The elements of the IBR approach together with the response from FHWA and FTA is considered a **NEPA re-evaluation**.
- ▶ The information provided to FHWA and FTA in the re-evaluation submittal will answer the following questions:
 - ▶ What has changed since previous work was conducted?
 - ▶ What is the IBR program's proposed response to this change?
- ▶ FHWA and FTA's response to the re-evaluation determines which path the program then continues down for further documentation and analysis.

Four Environmental Process Pathways



Design Options and Alternative/IBR Solution

Design Options

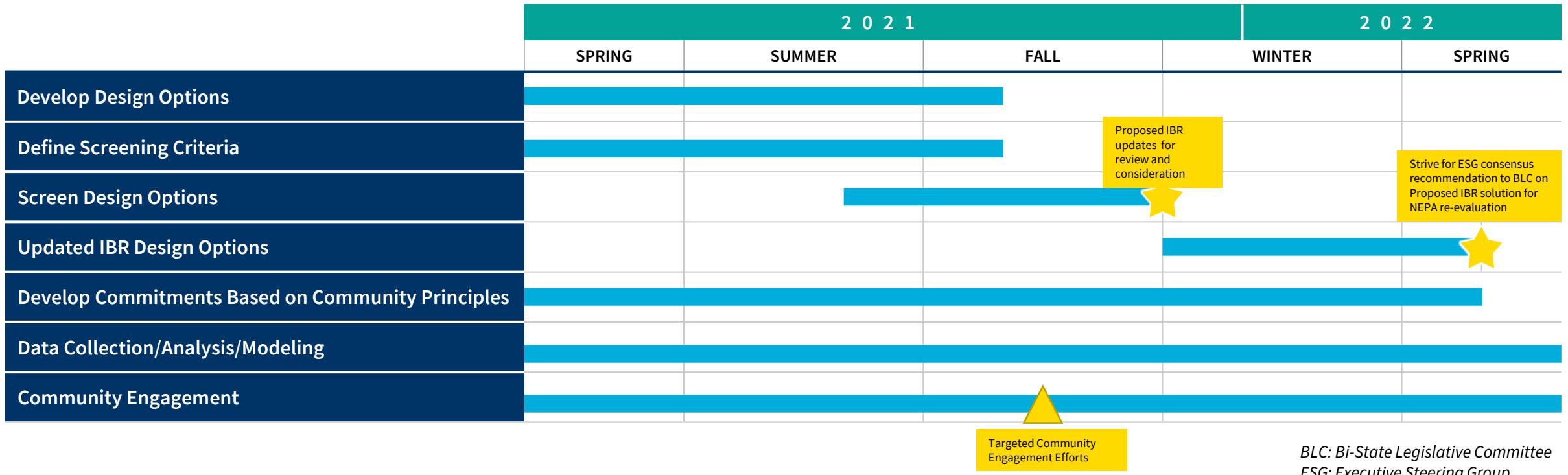
- ▶ Specific detail choices that address physical or contextual changes
- ▶ Will be considered on their own and in relation to other program elements

Program will work with partners to identify which design options will be screened, including analysis and community engagement, to identify which options will move forward into the alternative.

Alternative/IBR Solution

- ▶ Single combination of design options that, when packaged together, address the identified transportation problems

Draft Updated Schedule



Performance Measures and Screening Criteria

Developed using equity and climate frameworks along with community values and priorities

Performance Measures

- ▶ Measures success over the lifespan of the program
- ▶ Generally related to construction or long-term operations
- ▶ Not used to screen design options
- ▶ **Hypothetical example:** Percentage of construction materials from local sources to reduce transport

Screening Criteria

- ▶ Assesses the level of performance or potential impacts among the design options considered
- ▶ Not all screening criteria are applicable to each design option
- ▶ **Hypothetical example:** Mobility and accessibility for communities of concern: Does design support connections for manufactured home and floating home communities?

High Level Examples of Contextual Changes

- Regional, state, and local equity policies and priorities
- Regional, state, and local climate goals and priorities
- Demographics
- COVID-19 impacts on transportation
- Environmental regulations
- Expanded transit opportunities (i.e. bus-on-shoulder)
- Past and updated Regional Transportation Plans
- Updates to FAA requirements
- Land use policies, planned development, and zoning changes
- Federal transit funding requirements
- Freight/Industrial activity

Examples of design options to address changes

Ongoing stakeholder engagement will occur to identify design options to be analyzed

Examples of changes

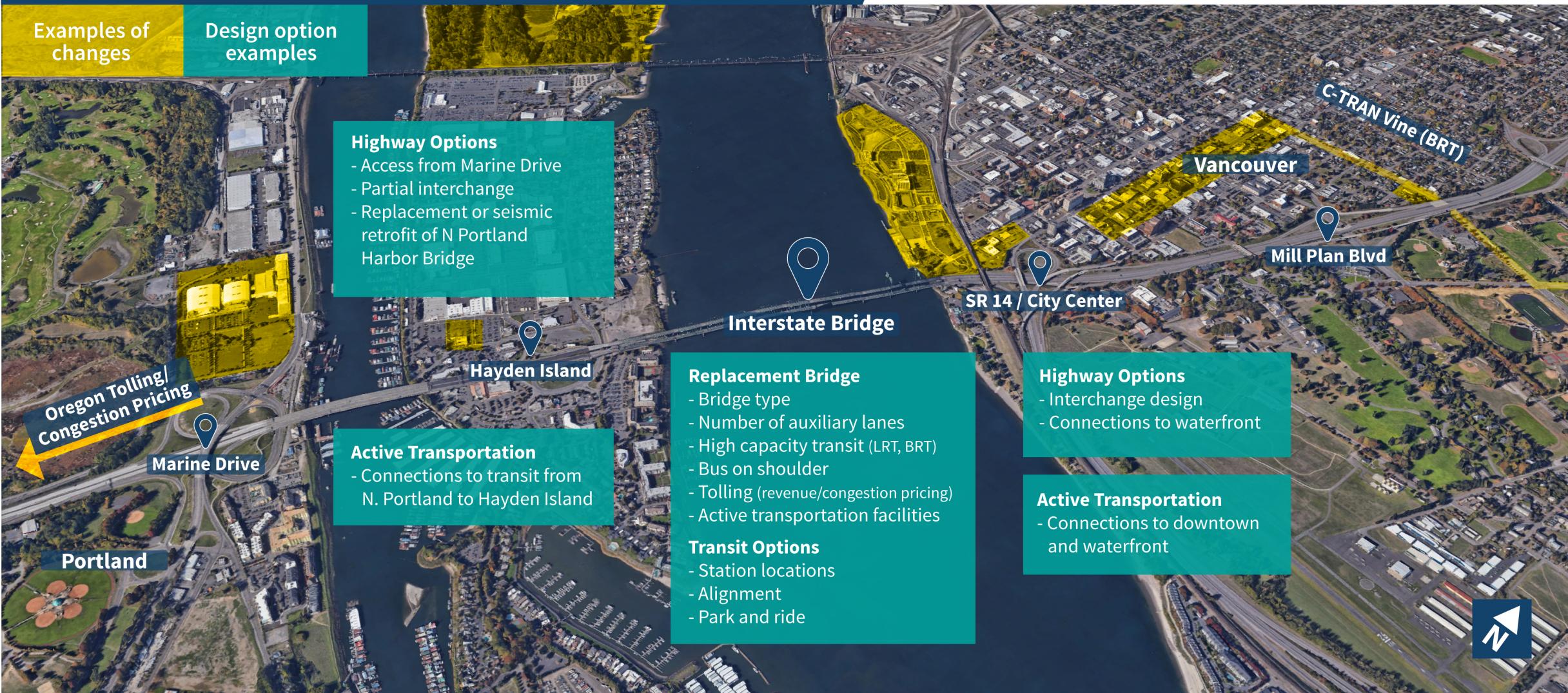


Examples of design options to address changes

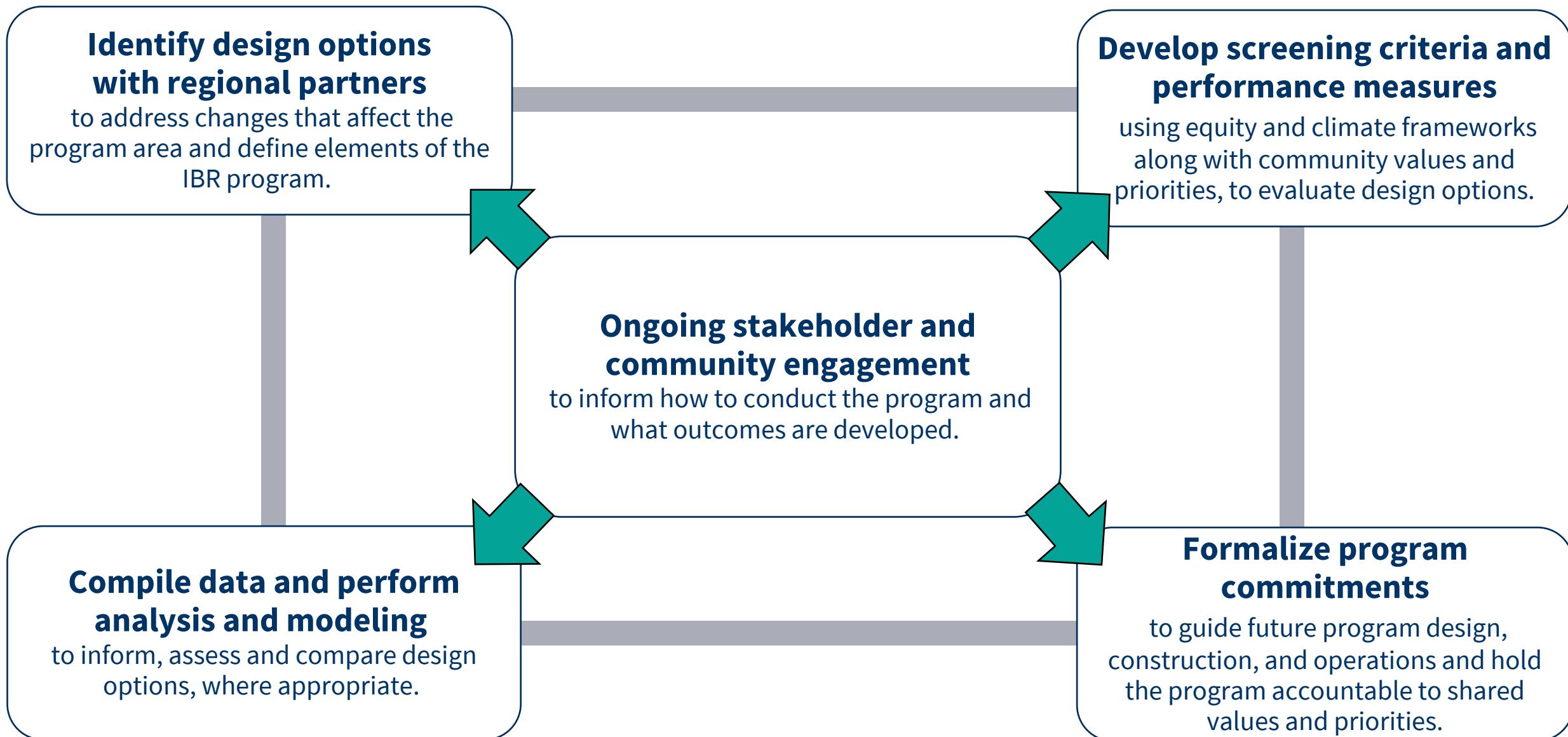
Ongoing stakeholder engagement will occur to identify design options to be analyzed

Examples of changes

Design option examples



IBR Approach Moving Forward





Input and Feedback on IBR Approach and Preparing for the Bi- State Legislative Committee

April 29 Meeting: What We Heard from ESG

- ▶ Shared desire to strive to utilize past work without restarting planning efforts.
- ▶ Acknowledgement that federal partners will ultimately determine the NEPA pathway.
- ▶ Importance of addressing changes using a transparent, data-driven process informed by community engagement.
- ▶ Necessity of the program to demonstrate commitment and accountability through words, actions, and measurable outcomes, particularly regarding equity and climate considerations.

Input and Feedback/Discussion

- ▶ What input and feedback do you have on the IBR approach moving forward? What is missing? What concerns do you have?
- ▶ What messages do you want the Program to share in their update to the Bi-State Legislative Committee?



Opportunity for Public Input

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.



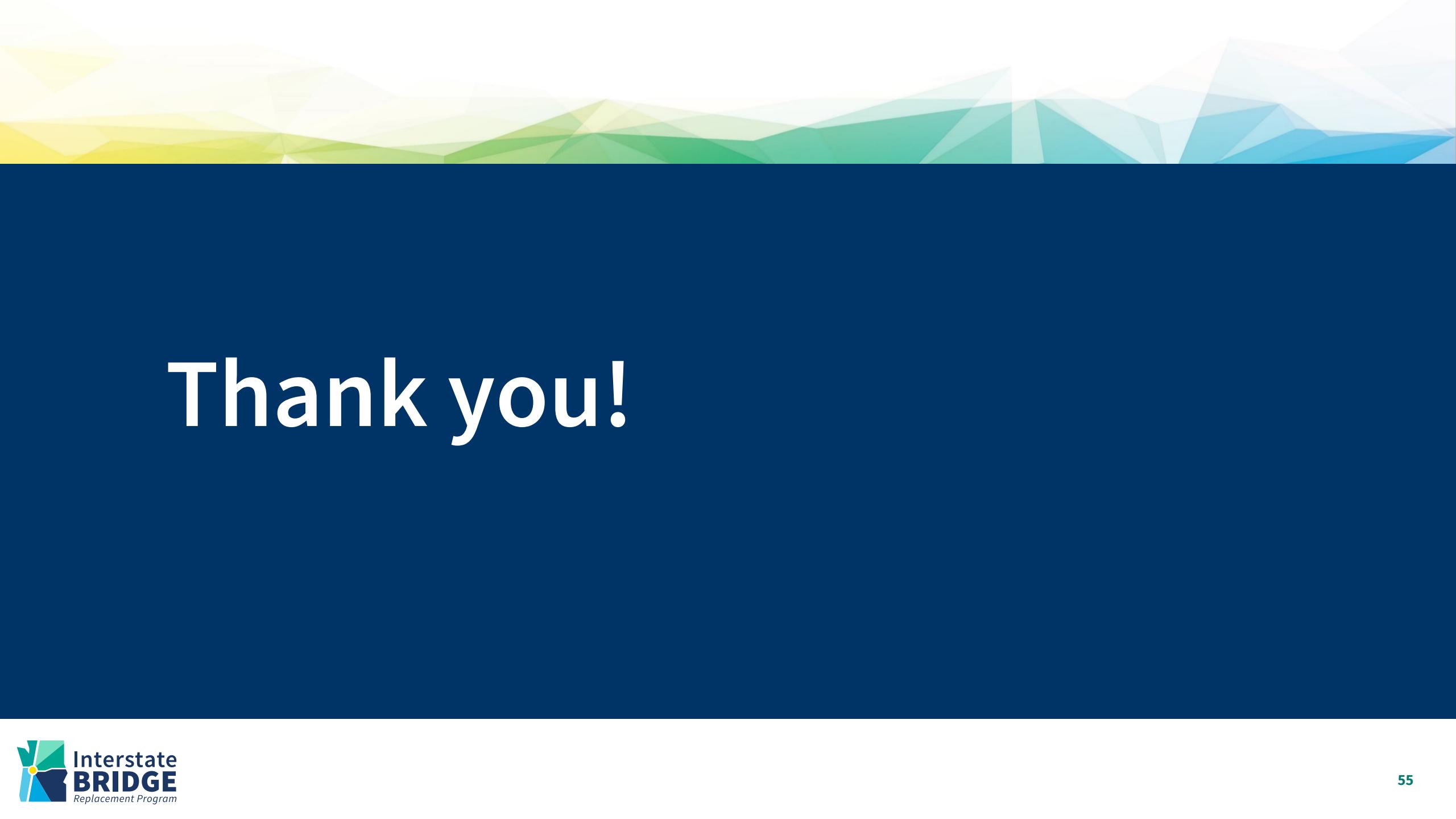


Confirm Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps, and Summary

Next Steps, Action Items, and Summary



- ▶ June ESG meeting date: **Thursday, June 17, 10am-12pm**
- ▶ Confirm upcoming meeting topics:
 - ▶ CAG and EAG updates
 - ▶ High level review of technical work on data, analysis, and design options
 - ▶ Update on Climate Framework
- ▶ Bi-State Legislative Committee: TBD
- ▶ Community Listening Sessions
- ▶ Review action items and summary



Thank you!