

An aerial photograph of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, a large green steel truss bridge spanning a wide river. The bridge is under construction, with several tall green steel towers and complex truss structures visible. Several cars are driving on the bridge deck. In the background, a town and distant hills are visible under a cloudy sky.

IBR Executive Steering Group Kick-off Meeting Part 2

November 30, 2020

*Interstate Bridge
Replacement Program*

Closed Captions in English and Spanish

English closed captions are available within Zoom and YouTube.

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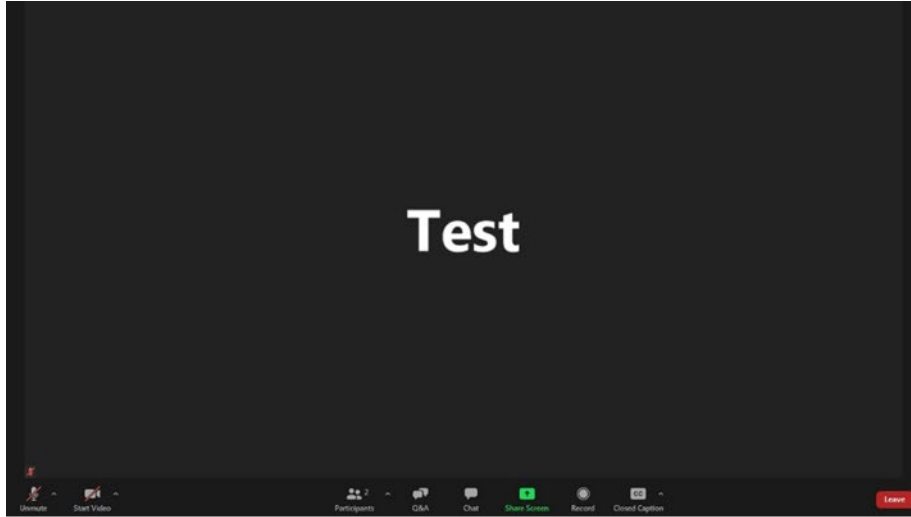
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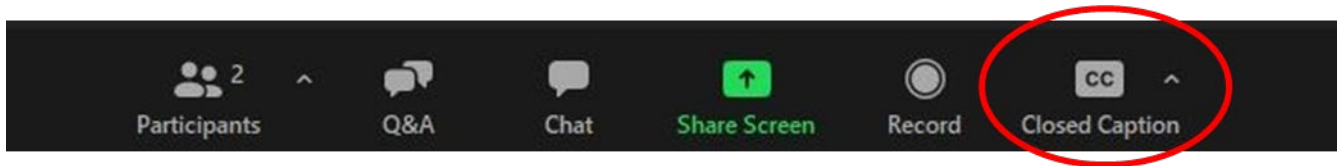
Usuarios pueden seguir este enlace para ver los subtítulos en Inglés y Español en una ventana separada del navegador:

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How to access closed captions

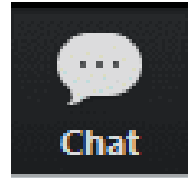


1. At the bottom middle of your screen you should see a menu of options. If you can't see the menu, hover your mouse over the bottom middle of the screen.
2. Then click on the "CC" icon and a separate window with captions will appear.



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, call or text the phone number below for assistance:
 - 253-241-0131



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 360-905-1560 and state "ESG Public Comment" in your message



Welcome, Introductions, and Brief Updates from around the Region

- **Greg Johnson**, Program Administrator
 - Welcome
 - Updates from the bi-state legislative committee
 - Legislative progress report and draft conceptual finance plan to be submitted Dec. 1
- **Executive Steering Group Members**
- **Deb Nudelman**, Facilitator

Agenda

Time	Topic
12:30-1:00 pm	Webinar Sign-In
1:00-1:15 pm	Welcome, Introductions, Proposed Agenda, and Updates
1:15-1:40 pm	Decision: ESG Charter Approval
1:40-2:05 pm	Update: Equity Considerations and Standing up a Community Forum
2:05-2:20 pm	Information: High-level Recommendations Development
2:20-2:40 pm	Information: Building Familiarity with the IBR NEPA Process
2:40-2:50 pm	Opportunity for Brief Public Input
2:50-3:00 pm	Confirm Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
3:00 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



Decision: ESG Charter Approval

IBR ESG Draft Charter

Purpose:

- The Charter outlines the charge and operating protocols for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program Executive Steering Group (ESG) and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the ESG throughout the IBR process.
- The Charter is intended to create common expectations about how the ESG members will work together and puts an emphasis on clear communication, trust building, respect for divergent views, creative thinking, the pursuit of mutual goals, and authentic community engagement.

IBR ESG Draft Charter

Key components:

- Introduction
- Charge and Responsibilities
- Decision Making Process and Commitments
- Overarching Guiding Principles and Core Values
- Membership and Participants
- Meeting Principles and Participation
- Meeting Format and Process Support
- Meeting Ground Rules/Process Reminders
- Public Input, Communications, and Media
- Schedule
- Agreement and Adoption

Seeking to Finalize and Approve the Charter

- Is there ESG concurrence today to finalize and approve the ESG Charter?



Update: Equity Considerations and Standing Up a Community Forum

Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

Purpose

To provide laser-focus on project's potential impacts and benefits for communities of concern, communities of color, Environmental Justice.

- Help to fulfill IBR Leadership's commitment to prioritize equity throughout the course of the program
- Monitor and provide oversight of equity throughout program in all elements
- Make recommendations to IBR Leadership regarding the program's processes, policies, and decisions that have the potential to impact communities of concern (either positively or negatively)

Equity Advisory Group (cont'd)

Near-term work

- Define 'equity' for IBR program
- Support development of desired outcomes & metrics to achieving 'equity'
- Frame the historical context
- Support implementation of the Community Engagement Plan
- Support DBE/OJT plans
- Coordination with CAG

Longer term work

- Mitigation strategies, including lessening impacts from potential financing options
- Input on design elements
- Other issues as they arise

Equity Advisory Group (cont'd)

Membership

- **Equity practitioners** with the expertise needed to make informed recommendations
- Representatives from **community-based organizations** focused on racial equity, social/climate justice, and culturally-specific concerns
- **Community members**, including those experiencing transportation barriers firsthand

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Purpose

Purpose

To provide input and feedback reflective of the community's needs, issues and concerns to influence the project outcomes of the IBR program. CAG members and the program team will engage in community dialogue with a commitment to meaningful, two-way feedback.

CAG Member Eligibility Criteria

Regular users of the existing Interstate Bridge or impacted by the program are encouraged to apply

- Work together in a collaborative and constructive way to advance the best possible bridge replacement project for I-5 over the Columbia River
- Learn about the transportation issues facing the region, and be interested in the program
- Embrace program values of transparency, equity in transportation, listening to understand, and active participation
- Seek solutions through consensus
- Create a two-way dialogue with their constituents if specifically representing a stakeholder group

Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

Draft – 11/13/20

Community Advisory Group – 2 Pathways to Involvement

1 APPLY



Any community member may apply for the CAG

- The application is open online on December 1 and will close December 18 at 5 p.m. for all interested parties.
- The IBR team will reach out to interested parties regarding next steps.

2 APPOINTMENT



- The Selection Committee chooses representative organizations from stakeholder groups to serve on the CAG.
- The organizations recommend one member to serve on the CAG.

INTERVIEW



- The Selection Committee* will choose applicants to invite to a 15 minute interview.
- Appointed members will also meet with the Selection Committee before those positions are confirmed.
- Interviews will be held December 28, 2020 through January 1, 2021.
- Selected members will be notified by January 13, 2021.

**Selection Committee includes Program Administrator and CAG Co-Chairs*

Information Sessions:



Interested in applying for the CAG or EAG?

To apply, learn more, understand next steps in the process or attend one of our optional information sessions please visit: wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/interstate-bridge/home
oregon.gov/odot/projects/pages/project-details.aspx?project=21570

Information sessions will be facilitated in English for both groups at the following dates and times with interpretation provided on specific dates:

- December 1 at 5 p.m. - Vietnamese and Chinese interpretation provided **RESCHEDULED: December 10 at 5 p.m**
- December 4 at 12 p.m. - Russian interpretation provided
- December 9 at 7 p.m. - Korean and Spanish interpretation provided
- December 16 at 12 p.m. - Somali and Spanish interpretation provided

Apply online December 1 - 18, 2020

Community Advisory Group: tiny.cc/IBR-CAG Equity Advisory Group: tiny.cc/IBR-EAG

Online applications are available in English, Spanish, Somali, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Russian using the links above. Please call to apply by phone or to request paper applications.

PHONE: 360-905-1560

EMAIL: info@interstatebridge.org

Activating the Community Advisory Group & Equity Advisory Group

	2020		2021				
	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
ESG MEETINGS							
ESG STAFF MEETINGS (meet bi-weekly)	EAG Framework	Review Membership					
ESG MEETINGS (and CAG + EAG action-item)	Finalize Framework	Community Outreach	Endorse Members				
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MEMBER SELECTION							
CAG CO-CHAIRS MEET							
RECRUITMENT							
Outreach and recruiting							
Public notification							
Member selection							
Public announcement of members and meetings							
MEETINGS (and anticipated meeting focus)							

Next Steps

- Joint CAG and EAG recruitment
- Formalize processes for coordination between EAG, CAG and ESG
- Begin monthly meetings beginning mid-to-late January

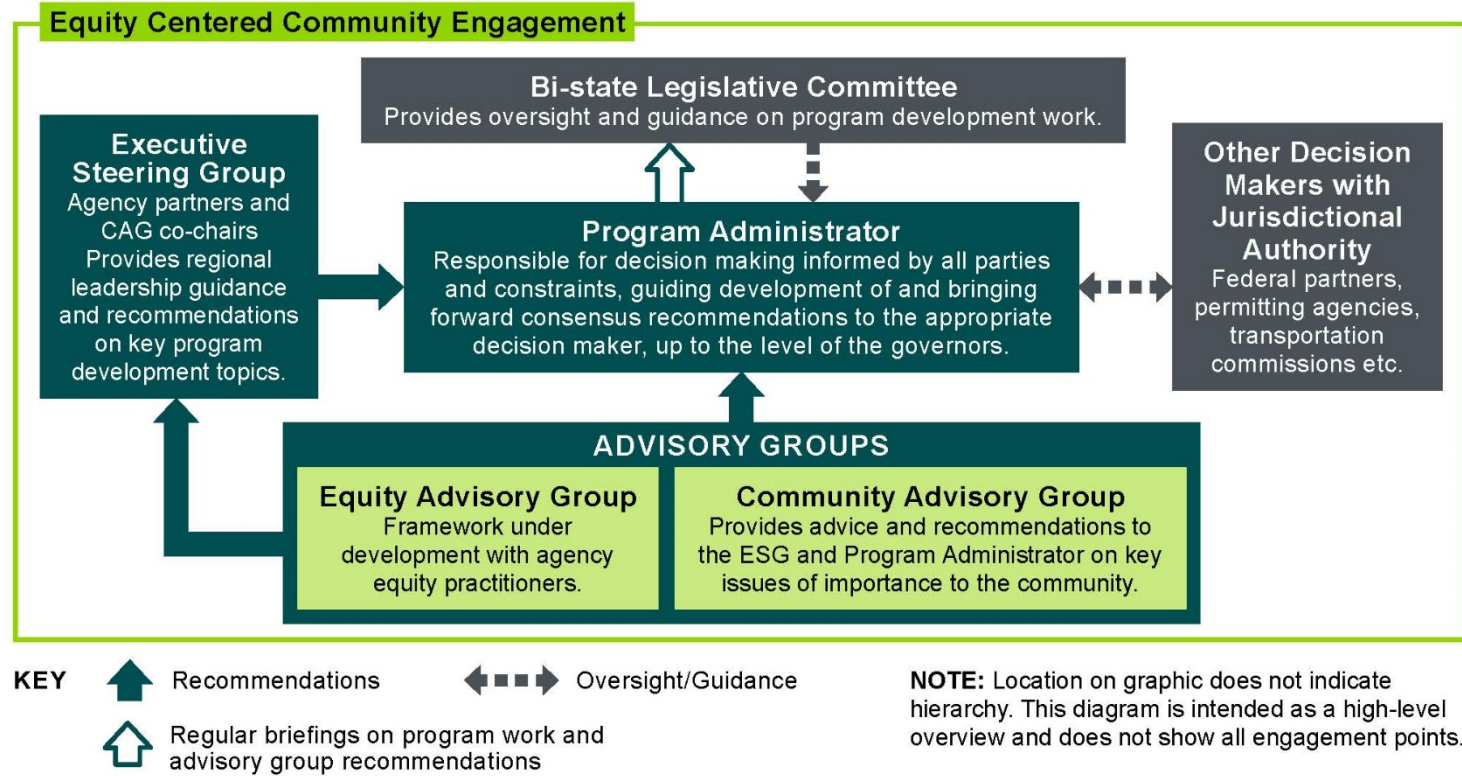


Questions to consider

- What strategies would you recommend we employ to increase awareness of these opportunities with our communities?
- Are there items you feel strongly the CAG and EAG should consider/provide feedback on?

Information: High-level Recommendations Development

IBR Program Decision Development Graphic



Information: Building Familiarity with IBR NEPA Process

An aerial photograph of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, a large green steel truss bridge spanning a wide river. The bridge is under construction, with several tall, green steel towers visible. The bridge deck is filled with cars, and the surrounding area includes a town and distant hills.

Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

*ESG Meeting – NEPA
Discussion*

November 30, 2020

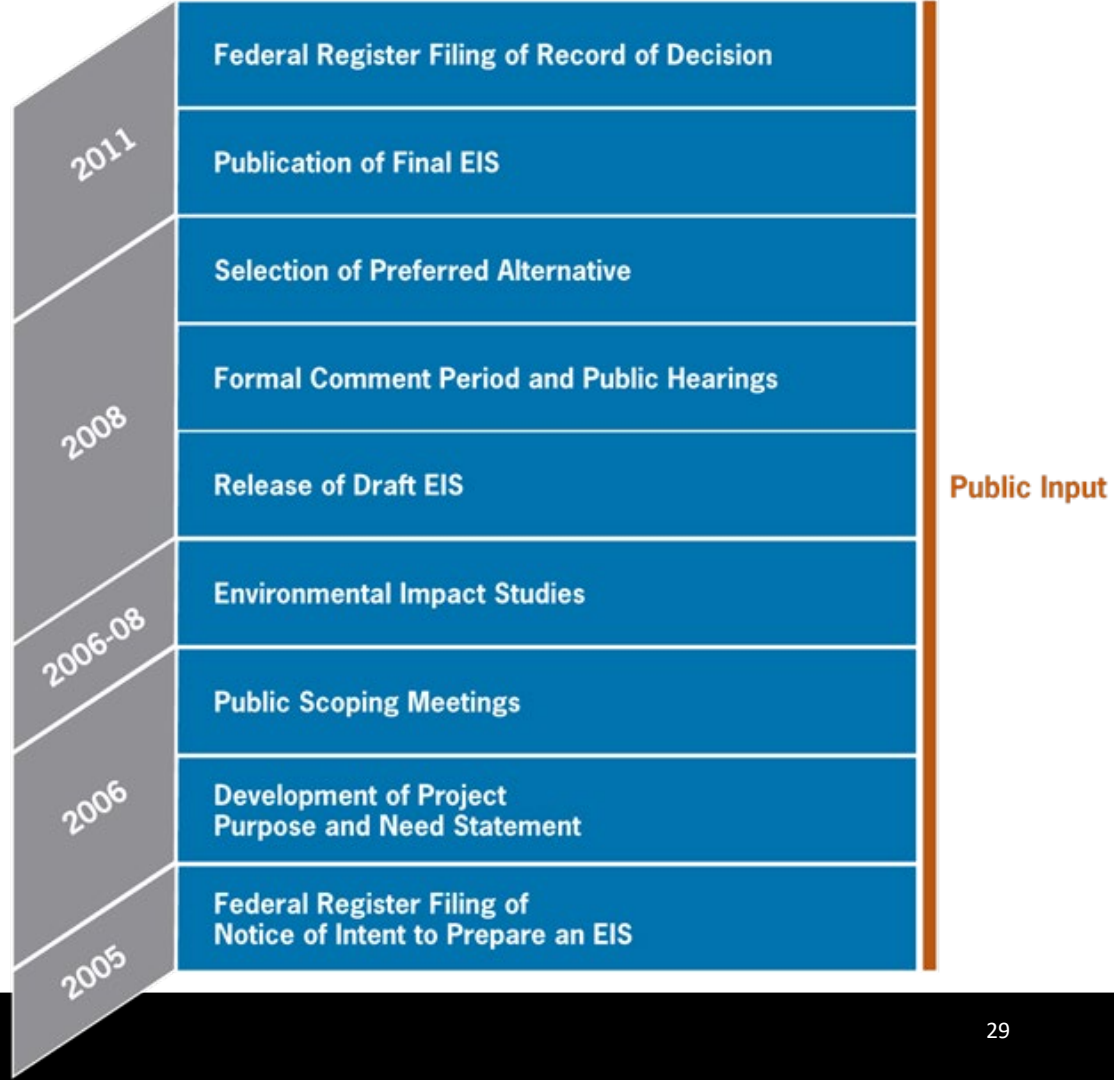


Chris Regan
Environmental Manager
*Interstate Bridge Replacement
Program*

IBR Program National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Overview

- Bridging our past NEPA analysis
- Identifying today's context
- IBR NEPA process

Leveraging Prior Work



Previously Identified Purpose and Need



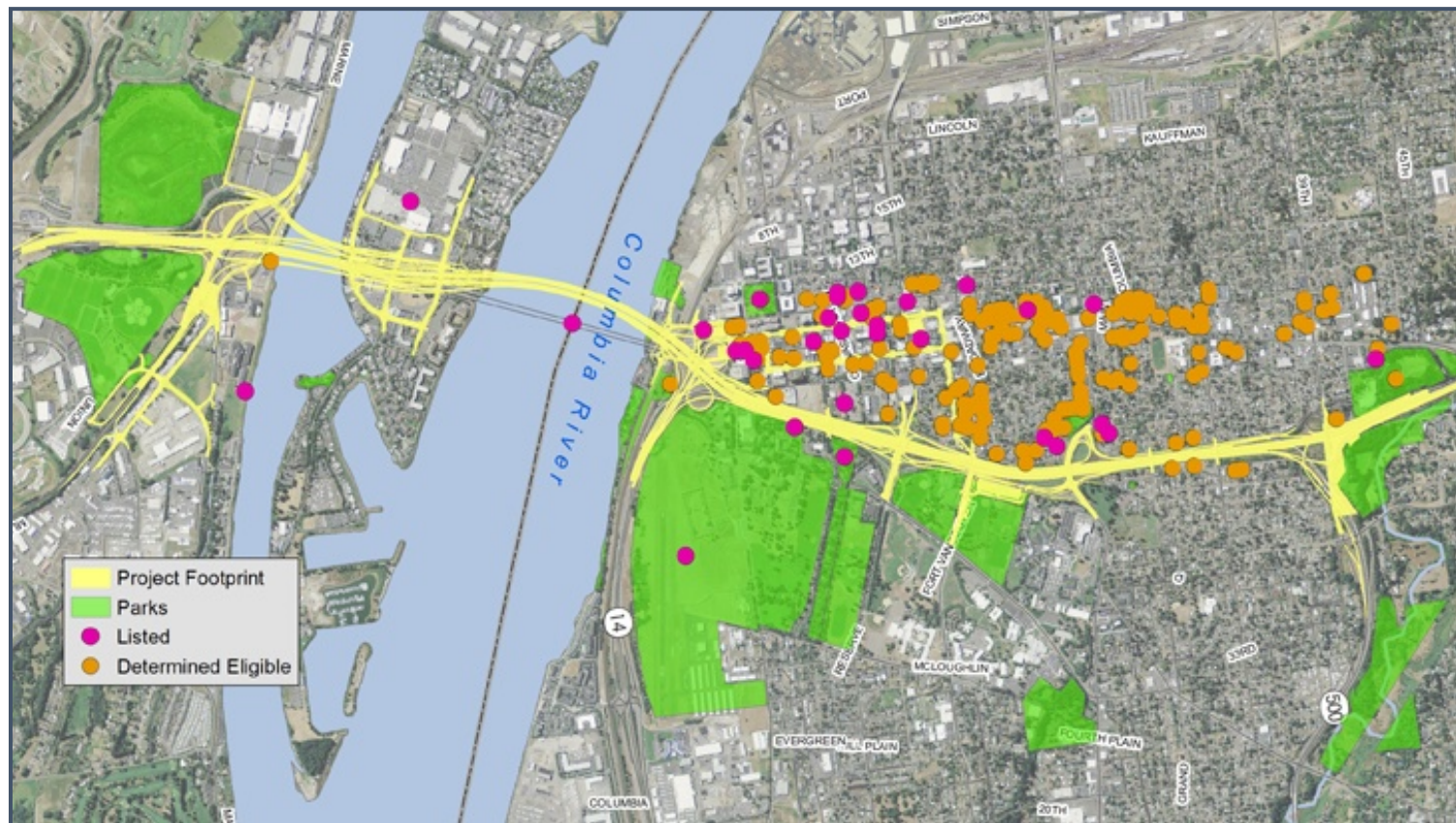
- Seismic vulnerability
- Limited public transportation
- Impaired freight movement
- Inadequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Safety concerns as a result of existing roadway design
- Growing travel demand and congestion

Understanding Today's Context

Early discussions with FHWA and FTA is focusing on our current context:

- Changes to project area (real property and their uses)
- Changes in regulations (Endangered Species Act, US Coast Guard Bridge permits, etc.)
- Change in project needs (transit, interchange designs, vision and values)
- Previous work to define constraints and commitments considered by CRC

Understanding Our Context





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 Permit (USCG)
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 (USFWS, NMFS)
- Sec 408 Levee modification (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)

Graphic adapted from FTA's Introduction to NEPA Compliance (2017)

IBR Program NEPA Process

Supplemental work that builds on the IBR program's re-evaluation will update Purpose and Need, establish Community Vision and Values, and redefine alternative screening and impact analysis:

- Foundation for the IBR program
- Driven by our federal leads' NEPA process (as defined through a Memorandum of Agreement)
- Through feedback and guidance from Executive Steering Group
- As reviewed through Tribal Coordination, Agency Coordination, and Public Engagement Plans

Conceptual Executive Steering Group Issues List:

- Program Purpose & Need/Vision & Values **(NEPA)**
- Program Area **(NEPA)**
- Develop and recommend program performance measures
- Equity and environmental justice strategies **(NEPA)**
- Transportation demand management strategies\system management strategies
- Community engagement strategies **(NEPA)**
- Finance plan strategies, including tolling
- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement alternatives & locally preferred alternative development and adoption process **(NEPA)**
- High capacity transit mode
- Multimodal river crossing structure type and configuration
- Program phasing options **(NEPA)**
- Freight (especially high, wide, heavy cargo requirements) considerations
- Affected properties mitigation strategy, timeline, and approach **(NEPA)**
- Local connectivity and complementary off-system multimodal improvements **(NEPA)**

What is the Purpose and Need?

The Purpose and Need section is in many ways the most important chapter of an Environmental Impact Statement*:

- Explains **what** is being addressed and **why** it is being considered
- Establishes why financial investment is necessary and justifies why any unavoidable environmental impacts are warranted
- Informs alternatives consideration, in-depth analysis, and final selection of the preferred alternative

*FHWA Environmental Review Toolkit: https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/legislation/nepa/guidance_purpose_need.aspx

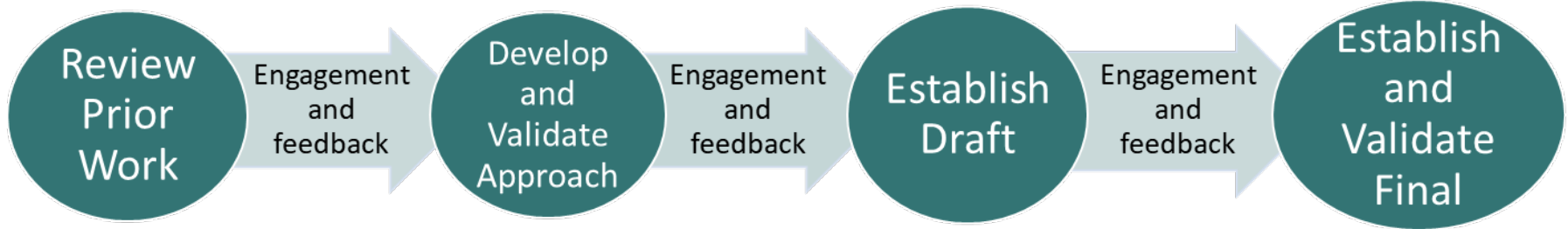
What is a Vision and Values Statement?

The purpose of a Vision and Values Statement is to identify specific regional values and goals that the program should consider as alternatives are being developed and evaluated:

- Established in coordination with program partners, stakeholders and the public
- Articulates project goals
- Guides planning and design of the project
- Can be used to develop criteria and performance measures to evaluate alternatives
- Informs the selection and refinement of alternatives

Steps to Develop IBR Program's Purpose and Need/Vision and Values

The following steps will be informed by feedback and guidance from the Executive Steering Group, bi-state legislative committees, advisory groups, and community engagement:



Agency Coordination, Tribal Consultation, and Community Engagement

- Convene a group of agencies with regulatory and approval authorizations that the IBR program triggers; meet regularly to address environmental compliance
- Initiate tribal consultation with all interested tribes
- Conduct early and continuous community engagement

IBR Program NEPA Strategy

- Review the data and analysis conducted during previous planning efforts
- Create context of how that analysis fits in today's context
- Pursue supplemental analysis to determine impacts of changes and best ways to minimize those impacts.



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Opportunity for Brief 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
 - Please provide your name and affiliation
 - 10-minute timeframe will be divided among the number of requested speakers
- 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:
 - Email comments to info@interstatebridge.org with "ESG Public Comment" in the subject line
 - Call 360-905-1560 and state "ESG Public Comment" in your message



Confirm Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps, and Summary

Next Steps, Action Items, and Summary



- Confirm upcoming meeting topics for early 2021
 - Update on development of Equity Advisory Group
 - Seeking concurrence on Community Advisory Group Membership
 - Develop recommendations to update Purpose & Need Statement
 - Develop recommendations to establish Community Vision & Values
- Review action items
- Summary

An aerial photograph of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, a large cantilever bridge spanning a wide river. The bridge's green-painted steel truss structure is prominent, with several tall vertical towers supporting the main span. Construction cranes and scaffolding are visible on the bridge deck, indicating ongoing work. The river is calm, and the surrounding landscape includes distant hills and some buildings along the shore.

Thank you!



Oregon
Department
of Transportation



Washington State
Department of Transportation

*Interstate Bridge
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