

EXECUTIVE STEERING GROUP (ESG) MEETING

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING SUMMARY

January 20, 2021, 1 PM - 3 PM

ESG Members in Attendance: Director Kris Strickler, Secretary Roger Millar, Deputy Chief of Staff Sonia Schmanski, Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Board Chair Scott Hughes, Metro Council President Lynn Peterson, CEO Doug Kelsey, CEO Shawn Donaghy, Chief Public Affairs Officer Kristen Leonard, CEO Julianna Marler, CAG Co-Chair Lynn Valenter

ESG Members not in Attendance: CAG Co-Chair Ed Washington

Welcome, Introductions, Proposed Agenda, and Updates

Deb Nudelman, Senior Facilitator, welcomed the group. Deb shared a closed caption reminder, informing attendees how to access closed captions in both English and Spanish. Deb shared introductory webinar participation tips and pointed attendees towards a program resource to assist with technology troubleshooting.

Deb informed the attendees that there would be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting, but that the public could submit comments in written form by submitting to info@interstatebridge.org with “ESG Public Comment” in the subject line, or verbal form by calling the number 888-503-6735 and stating “ESG Public Comment” before sharing their message.

Greg Johnson, IBR Program Administrator, welcomed the group and shared the importance of the work that the Executive Steering Group (ESG) will be undertaking. He shared a few high-level updates informing the ESG that members of the Bi-State Legislative Committee had received updates on standing up the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the Equity Advisory Committee (EAG) as well as an announcement of the recently launched Interstate Bridge Program website.

Greg informed the ESG that the IBR program will be shifting into a higher gear with work beginning around Purpose & Need and Community Vision & Values. He shared that with this shift, the program will become much more public facing moving forward.

Deb asked the ESG members to provide any updates from their agencies and jurisdictions.

Kris Strickler, Director of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), shared his thanks to the program team and support for the IBR program. He informed the attendees that ODOT was working hard to attend to the difficult situations the state faces with compassion.

Secretary Millar, Director of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), shared his appreciation for the program.

Sonia Schmanski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Ted Wheeler, shared that the City of Portland has welcomed Jo Ann Hardesty as the new Transportation Commissioner. She informed the attendees that a decision as to who will represent the City of Portland on the ESG will be made in advance of the next ESG meeting.

Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle shared that a Washington State representative highlighted that the draft transportation package recently released in the Washington State House of Representatives includes \$1 billion in funding for the IBR program.

Scott Hughes, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Board Chair, shared his support for the IBR program and his enthusiasm for moving quickly.

Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President, shared her support for the bridge and for maintaining a program pace that ensures that everybody is brought along. She stressed the importance of consensus and maintaining a regional balance.

Doug Kelsey, TriMet General Manager, informed the group that he will be retiring from TriMet in March. He shared that an interim ESG representative from TriMet will be announced shortly.

Shawn Donaghy, C-TRAN CEO, shared his excitement regarding Washington State's financial commitment to the IBR program, and expressed his support for the IBR program.

Kristin Leonard, Port of Portland Chief Public Affairs Officer, shared her congratulations to Doug Kelsey on his retirement. She thanked Greg Johnson for his willingness to provide a brief in an upcoming Port of Portland commissioner meeting on the IBR program.

Julianna Marler, Port of Vancouver CEO, thanked the IBR team for their work in preparing for the ESG meetings.

Lynn Valenter, CAG Co-Chair, shared her excitement for the IBR program and eagerness to represent her community.

Deb Nudelman reviewed the proposed agenda topics and went over meeting ground rules.

Decision: Standing up the Community Advisory Group (CAG)

Johnell Bell, Co-Facilitator of the CAG and IBR Chief Equity Officer, shared that today the ESG will be receiving an overview of the CAG selection process as well as a list of names for approval. Johnell thanked CAG Co-Chairs Lynn Valenter and Ed Washington as well as the ESG and their staff, for their collective time and effort in helping to stand up the CAG.

Johnell provided a look at the CAG organizational appointment recruitment process. He shared that the program had considered 300 potential Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and in collaboration with the

selection committee refined the list to 22 finalists who the co-facilitators and members of the program team connected with to extend an invitation to join the CAG.

Johnell then presented on the at-large applicant selection process. He shared the open application time (December 1-27) and recruitment methods, announcing that the program had received 498 applications. Johnell informed the group that applications had been screened through a blind screening process and reviewed during the week of December 28 with interviews for top applicants held beginning on January 5.

Johnell shared the CAG organizational appointment criteria and the list of Oregon organizational appointments. Johnell noted that the program team had received direction to include public transit representatives for Oregon and Washington, and that those names are forthcoming. He then presented the list of regional organizational appointments.

Secretary Millar asked for clarification on the new public transit representative seat. Johnell shared that the representative would speak to the experience of a transit rider.

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, CAG Co-Facilitator and IBR Strategic Communications Lead, presented the Washington confirmed organizational appointments. Lisa reminded the attendees that the CAG would not be the only opportunity for the community to engage with the program. She further reminded attendees that working groups would be formed on specific interest areas.

Lisa then shared an introduction to the CAG at-large selection process. She provided details on initial screening, applicant essay review and the selection team review. She informed the group that 12 top applicants were invited for interviews in early January 2021.

Johnell introduced the list of Oregon at-large members and Lisa did the same for the list of Washington at-large members. Lisa shared an overview of at-large applicant demographic data including a look at race, gender, age, home ZIP code, and commuter behavior.

Johnell shared the next steps for the CAG and the EAG, notifying the attendees of the combined EAG and CAG orientation on Saturday, January 30, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, as well as the first EAG meeting on January 25 running from 5:30 – 7:30 PM and the first CAG meeting on January 27th running from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

Lynn Valenter, CAG Co-Chair, indicated her support and appreciation for the rich qualitative and quantitative approaches to CAG selection on behalf of both her and CAG Co-Chair Ed Washington who was absent.

Doug Kelsey asked the IBR team to weigh in on the disability community's representation on the CAG. Greg Johnson responded, sharing that both the CAG and EAG would include disability community representation. Greg added that the EAG will include Disability Rights Oregon in its membership.

Deb Nudelman asked the group to go once around the virtual table and indicate their concurrence for the CAG member list.

Lynn Valenter shared her concurrence on behalf of the Co-Chairs.

Julianna Marler shared her concurrence. She thanked the group for their work.

Kristen Leonard shared her concurrence. She thanked the group commending the work that had been done.

Shawn Donaghy shared his concurrence. He thanked the group for their hard work and attention to diversity.

Doug Kelsey shared his concurrence. He cautioned the team about how to choose a transit representative, advising them to focus on a breadth of experience as opposed to advocacy. Greg responded, noting that the IBR program partner staff were tasked with identifying the two CAG transit representatives.

Lynn Peterson shared her concurrence. She thanked the team for listening to the I-205 conversation and shared her support for the selection of a transit representative and encouraged the team to look at the Getting There Together Coalition as well.

Scott Hughes shared his concurrence. He thanked the IBR team.

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle shared her concurrence. She thanked the team and the CAG applicants.

Sonia Schmanski shared her concurrence. She shared her appreciation for the diversity of the CAG and highlighted the layered experience of the community members on the list.

Secretary Roger Millar shared his concurrence. He thanked the team.

Director Kris Strickler shared his concurrence. He thanked the staff team as well as the CAG Co-Chairs for their time and effort on the list. He stressed the importance of listening to this group.

Deb thanked the ESG and announced that the CAG list had full concurrence. Greg Johnson announced that Ed Washington and Lynn Valenter were now official Co-Chairs of the CAG, rather than interim. Deb reminded the team that the CAG bios would be made public shortly.

Information: Standing up the Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

Johnell provided a refresher on the purpose of the EAG, sharing that it is to provide laser-focus on the project's potential impacts and benefits for communities of concern, communities of color, and Environmental Justice. He described the key functions of the EAG, reminding the attendees that the group helps to fulfill IBR leadership's commitment to prioritize equity throughout the course of the program, helps to monitor and provide oversight of equity throughout the program in all elements and to make recommendations to IBR leadership regarding the program's process, policies, and decisions that have the potential to impact communities of concern.

Johnell presented a summary of the EAG recruitment process, sharing that the IBR equity team is working on obtaining commitments from selected organizations and conducting interviews with the 12 selected candidates. Johnell shared that the program had received 59 applications for the EAG at-large seats and notified the attendees that Dr. Roberta Hunte has been selected to be the EAG facilitator.

Johnell shared a demographic breakdown of the at-large interviewees. The demographics breakdown provided a look at race/ethnicity, gender identity, housing, disability status and age. Johnell reminded the attendees that the first EAG meeting is planned for January 25, 5:30-7:30 PM and opened the discussion for questions.

Sonia Schmanski shared her appreciation for the program not only committing to, but centering equity. She requested information regarding the touchpoints of the EAG with the ESG. Greg Johnson shared that the EAG will be ensuring that decisions made by the groups center equity. Johnell added that the EAG will look through Purpose & Need and Community Vision & Values to ensure equity.

Secretary Millar clarified that the EAG will be engaged with the ESG process, but that the group will also set their own priorities in guiding equity as a part of the program. Greg agreed, explaining that the EAG is a proactive group rather than a reactive group.

Information: IBR Purpose & Need and Community Vision & Values

Chris Regan, Environmental Manager, provided a high-level look at the program timeline and the process for updating the Purpose & Need statement and establishing the Community Vision & Values. He then highlighted the iterative nature of the work as well as the ESG's touchpoints during the process. Chris shared that the program team is hoping to have a Purpose & Need statement and Community Vision & Values by late May to bring in front of the Bi-State Legislative Committee for consideration.

Deb Nudelman reminded the ESG that there are detailed schedules in the ESG meeting packets that provide a deeper look at the pieces referenced in the presentation.

Mayor McEnery-Ogle requested clarification on the community engagement program for updating Purpose & Need. Chris Regan shared that there is an in-depth community engagement plan. Greg Johnson added that one of the main events is a two-week open house in the last two weeks of February. Lisa added that there will be a wide variety of events. She promised to share summary documents of IBR community engagement activities before the next meeting.

Lynn Peterson shared her appreciation for the stress on iterations and added that she would encourage the team to allow for more than two iterations between the community and advisory groups. Greg Johnson shared that the IBR team will not be short circuiting the iterative process. President Peterson thanked the team.

Secretary Millar shared that the Purpose & Need and Vision & Values part of this program is critical to the quality of the program result. He added that the team should take their time to ensure a quality final product.

Secretary Millar also stressed the importance of including the tribal partners in conversations. Greg Johnson informed the ESG that the CAG is not the conduit for consultation with the tribal partners. He added that the program is in constant contact with tribal liaisons at the two state Department of Transportations. Greg informed the ESG that letters were sent to 32 tribes with offers for consultation on the IBR program. Greg reiterated his commitment to ensuring that issues will be heard, while balancing the importance of the program schedule. Greg shared that Thomas Goldstien will be the IBR program’s FHWA and FTA representative.

Mayor McEnery-Ogle asked for the communication plan. Deb Nudelman reiterated that the ESG members will be getting more information on the engagement plan in materials and at the next meeting.

President Peterson shared her opinion that the traffic models used will need to be revisited to ensure that the priorities of the region are reflected for the Purpose & Need statement. Greg Johnson responded, explaining that the program team is in the process of putting together Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) to revisit the modeling. President Peterson thanked Greg for his comment and added that the traffic engineering assumptions were her main concern.

Director Strickler thanked Greg for his careful attention to the process.

Information: Conceptual Finance Plan

Frank Green, IBR Assistant Program Administrator, presented a brief overview of the IBR Conceptual Finance Plan. He explained that the purpose of the Conceptual Finance Plan was to provide a high-level look at the potential program costs to the Bi-State Legislative Committee in December 2020. He shared that the plan looked at several potential funding sources and shared a summary of the preliminary funding scenarios as well as the rough estimate of a range for the funding gap.

Frank noted that the program will continue to seek future funding options and refine the funding scenarios based on the best available information.

President Peterson requested that the program provide practical design options with high and low-cost highway options in addition to the high and low-cost transit options. Doug Kelsey asked that the program consider operating costs as well.

Opportunity for Public Input

Deb Nudelman asked the attendees to raise their hand for public comment. One attendee raised their hand.

Sam Churchill shared that they are a resident who lives on Hayden Island and do not own a car. They thanked the program team for keeping the ESG meetings open and requested that the team consider limiting the height of the bridge. Sam shared their interest in the program team considering a solution like the Las Vegas underground electric vehicle delivery system ‘the Loop’.

Confirm Upcoming Meeting Topics, Next Steps, and Summary

Deb Nudelman informed the attendees that the next ESG meeting will be held February 17, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Deb shared that the ESG will receive an overview of the community engagement plan, an update from the CAG and EAG, and a continued discussion of Purpose & Need and Community Vision & Values.

Deb reminded the attendees that the slides and meeting materials will be posted to the IBR website, along with the IBR community engagement overview as well as the list of CAG and EAG organizational representative names, when they are finalized.

Greg Johnson thanked the group for their quality input.

Executive Steering Group Members

Attendees	Organization
Director Kris Strickler	Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Secretary Roger Millar	Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Deputy Chief of Staff Sonia Schmanski	City of Portland
Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle	City of Vancouver
Board Chair Scott Hughes	Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)
Metro Council President Lynn Peterson	Metro
CEO Doug Kelsey	TriMet
CEO Shawn Donaghy	C-TRAN
Chief Public Affairs Officer Kristen Leonard	Port of Portland
CEO Julianna Marler	Port of Vancouver
Lynn Valenter	Community Advisory Group Co-Chair

Presenters

Attendees	Organization
Greg Johnson, Program Administrator	IBR program team
Frank Green, Assistant Program Administrator	IBR program team
Lisa K. Schauer, Strategic Communications, Community Advisory Group co-facilitator	IBR program team
Johnell Bell, Chief Equity Officer, Community Advisory Group co-facilitator	IBR program team
Chris Regan, Environmental Manager	IBR program team
Deb Nudelman, Lead Facilitator	IBR program team

Additional Participants

70 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 Recording and Materials

A recording of the meeting and the meeting materials are available here: <https://interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/esg-january-meeting/>

Public Comment Received Before and After the Meeting

Below are the public comments received between November 13, 2020 and January 27, 2021.