



Community Advisory Group Meeting



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<https://ibr.news/captions>

Subtítulos disponible en Inglés y Español

Los subtítulos en Inglés están disponibles en Zoom y YouTube.

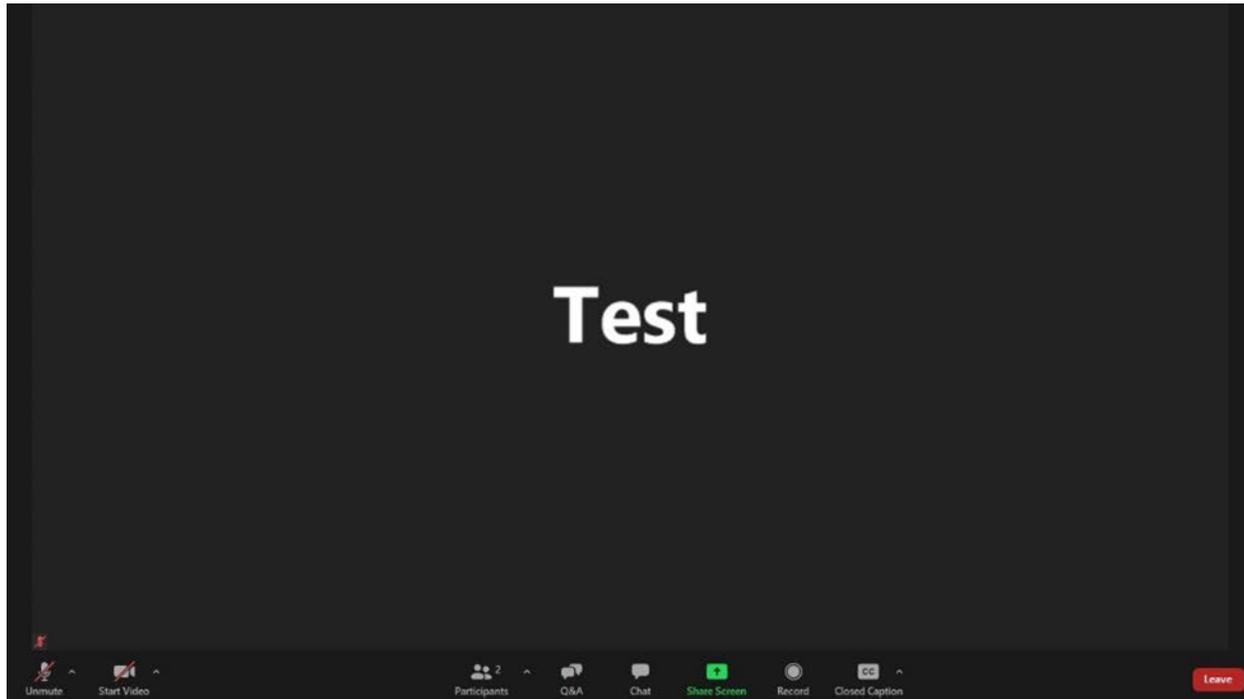
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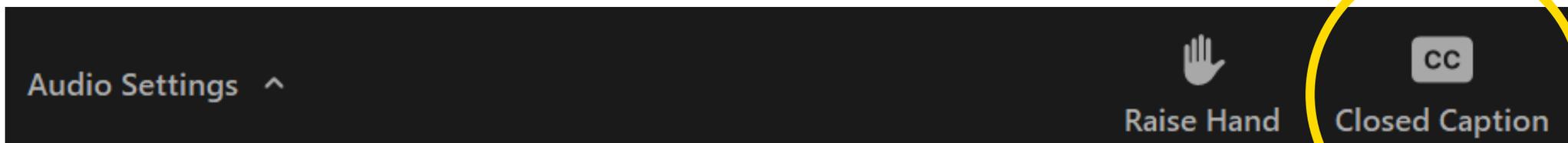
Meeting Participation Tips

- ▶ 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

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



ASL Interpretation

- ▶ In the effort to continue to center equity there is an ASL interpreter in addition to closed captioning.
- ▶ To make sure the interpreter is always visible please right click their video and select spotlight video.
- ▶ For those watching on YouTube, when we screenshare, you will be able to see the slideshow, closed captioning and the ASL interpreter. You will still be able to hear different people speaking but may not see them.

Public Input Instructions

- ▶ There will be an opportunity to provide brief public input later in the meeting today (around 5:45PM).
- ▶ Verbal public comment will be welcome in the Zoom Webinar during the designated time, with the option to turn on your web camera.
 - Please use the link located in the meeting description on the YouTube meeting page or on the IBR CAG meeting webpage.
 - Commenters will not be allowed to share their screens and will be removed from the room once the public comment period concludes.
- ▶ **To comment by phone:**
 - Dial: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968
 - Enter meeting ID: 993 5459 6043, passcode: 674942
 - Dial *9 to raise your hand
 - After you are invited to speak, dial *6 to unmute yourself



Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
4:00 p.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Meeting Overview○ Introductions and Check In○ Program Update
4:35 p.m.	Tolling Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Overview of IBR Tolling Work
4:55 p.m.	CBAG Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion
5:20 p.m.	Community Engagement Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Overview of recent and upcoming activities○ Discussion
5:45 p.m.	Public Comment
5:55 p.m.	Closing

Our CAG Meeting Space

- ▶ Put relationships first
- ▶ Keep focused on our common goal
- ▶ Notice power dynamics in the room
- ▶ Create a space for multiple truths & norms
- ▶ Be kind and brave
- ▶ Practice examining racially biased systems and processes
- ▶ Look for learning





Welcome CAG Members

Ed Washington & Lynn Valenter, CAG Co-Chairs

CAG Sharing

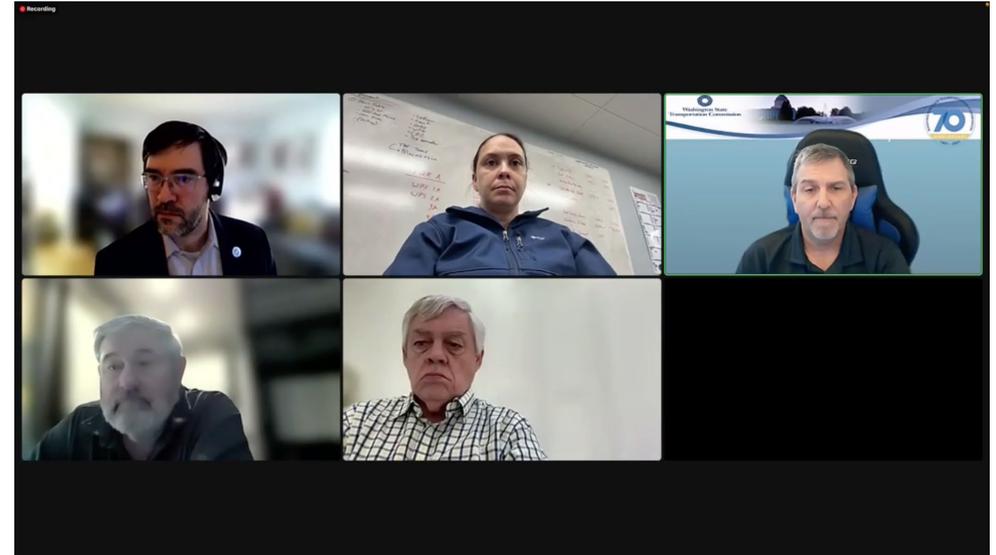
- ▶ **Welcome**
 - Ed Washington & Lynn Valenter, Co-Chairs
- ▶ **Open Discussion – CAG Members**
 - Please share your name, organizational affiliation or at-large status, and pronouns
- ▶ **Check-in: What's something you couldn't go a week without?**

Program Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

Recent Activities

- ▶ **Bi-state tolling subcommittee**
 - Last meeting: April 19
 - Next meeting: May 17
- ▶ **Community outreach:**
 - Hayden Island Neighborhood Network
 - Rose Village Neighborhood Association
 - Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
 - Vancouver iTech Prep
- ▶ **Port of Vancouver spring tenant event**
- ▶ **Draft SEIS release timing update**
- ▶ **May 6 Industry Day event**





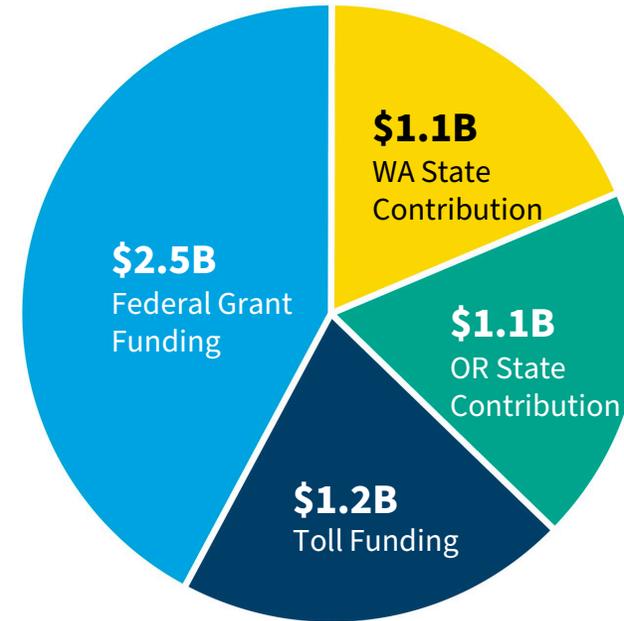
Tolling Update

Meghan Hodges, Community and Government Relations
Manager

IBR Program Funding

- ▶ Federal funds, tolling, and state funds are needed to address the estimated \$6B IBR program cost.
 - Bridge tolls will help pay for the new bridge and its continued operation and maintenance through the duration of the construction loan.
- ▶ Having all non-federal matching funds in place demonstrates regional commitment and increases competitiveness in federal grant applications.

Potential Program Funding Sources



- WA State Contribution**
\$45M in planning secured; construction funding committed
- OR State Contribution**
\$55M in planning secured; construction funding committed
- Federal Grant Funding**
\$600M Mega Grant and \$1M BIP planning grant secured; pursuing remaining grant amount
- Toll Funding**
Tolling authorized; Toll bonding authorization not yet secured

Updated as of 01.2024

May 9, 2024

Benefits of Tolling

- ▶ Tolling helps ensure the people who use the system the most, are paying for the benefits they experience.
- ▶ Tolling, combined with the program's multimodal improvements, helps:
 - Improve reliability
 - *Variable rate tolling can shift optional travel away from the busiest times of day or shift trips to different modes of travel.*
 - Improve safety
 - *Reducing congestion, and improving mobility, lowers the number of crashes on the facility.*
 - *Less congestion allows vehicles to return to the freeway system, reducing the number of vehicles diverting to local streets.*
 - Meet state climate goals
 - *Improved traffic flow reduces vehicles idling which is known to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.*

Tolling Roles and Responsibilities

- ▶ Tolling efforts on IBR will be developed in a bi-state process involving:
 - Oregon and Washington Legislatures
 - *Pass laws authorizing tolling facilities and identifying how toll revenue is spent*
 - Oregon and Washington Transportation Commissions
 - *Sets toll rates and policies*
 - *In Oregon, the Commission determines how toll revenue is spent*
 - *I-5 Bridge Bi-State Toll Subcommittee has been set up to recommend rates and policies to the full commissions*
 - Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation
 - *Implement tolls and policies on state facilities*



Tolling in Oregon

Portland-Area Tolling status:

- ▶ Stop work on the Regional Mobility Pricing Project.
- ▶ Delay additional expenditures for implementation of tolling on the I-205 Abernathy Bridge project so the legislature can further evaluate and provide clearer direction on tolling.
- ▶ Transfer toll collection for IBR to WSDOT's existing toll program.
- ▶ OTC will continue coordination with WSTC to advance toll policy discussions.



What will tolling look like?

▶ Electronic tolls

- Without toll booths there is no need for vehicles to stop.

▶ Variable rate tolling

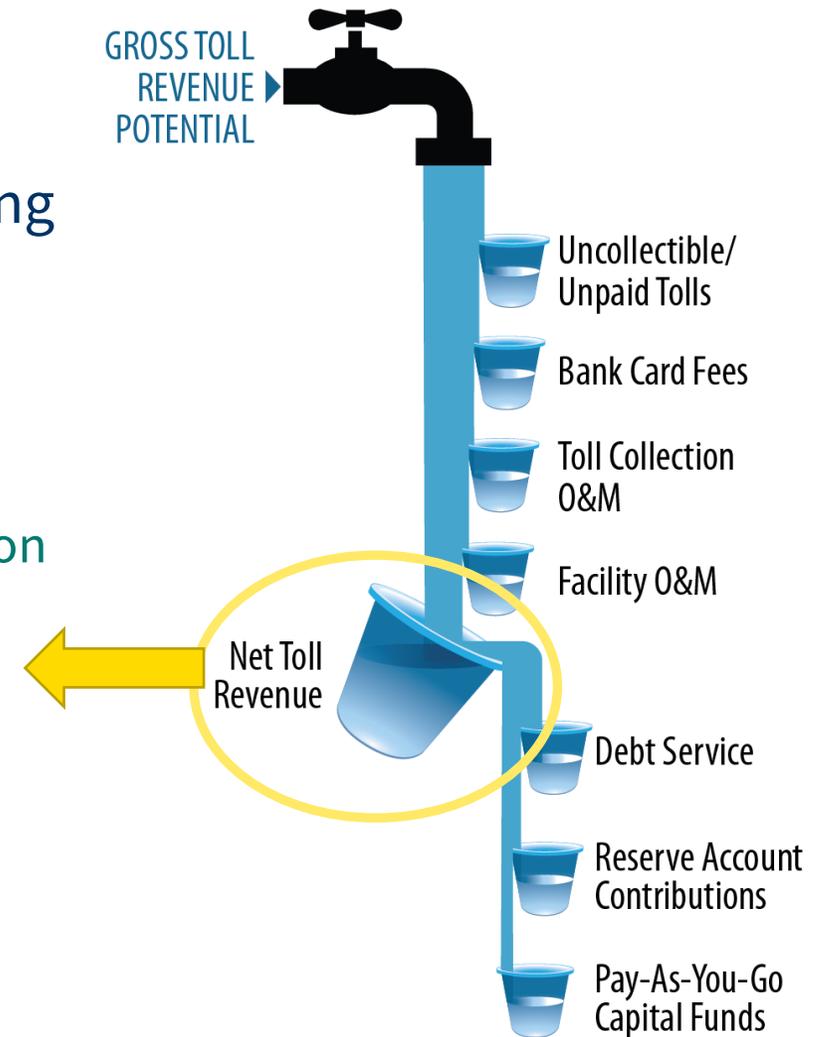
- Time-of-day variable tolling charges a higher price on a set schedule during peak demand.



Electronic toll gantries on SR520 in Washington

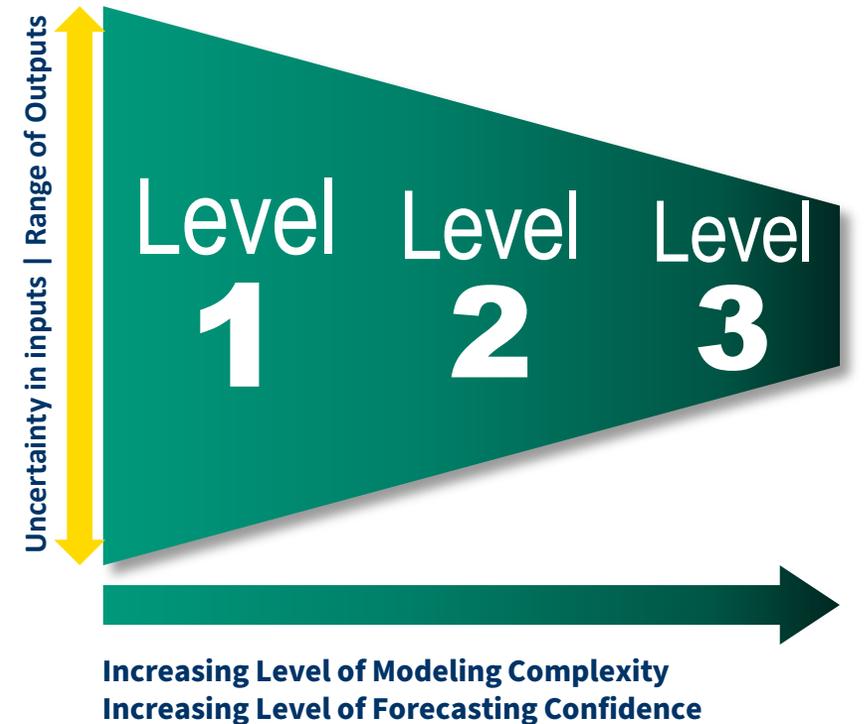
IBR gross-to-net toll revenue assumptions

- ▶ Typically, projected net toll revenues determine how much can be borrowed to provide up-front capital funding for the IBR program
 - The contract with bondholders stipulates the order for and allowable uses of toll revenues when tolls are used to finance capital improvements
 - Tolls collected typically first pay for roadway and toll collection operations and maintenance (O&M) costs
 - Net toll revenues are what remains after various deductions
- ▶ Uses of net toll revenues may include:
 - Debt service (principal and interest on funds borrowed for construction)
 - Deposits to required reserve accounts to provide “rainy day” protection and pay for periodic capital re-investment
 - Pay-as-you-go construction expenditures



What is the purpose of the IBR Level 2 Toll T&R Study?

- ▶ Evaluate toll scenarios that test the effects of different toll policy levers and rates to provide a foundation to guide the Commissions' rate setting process
- ▶ Provide reasonable estimates of toll funding for IBR Program capital improvements to support financial plan development
- ▶ Provide conservative revenue estimates for a range of toll policies and network assumptions
- ▶ Provide insight into how tolls may change travel patterns



Each level **builds upon** previous work

IBR Level 2 Toll Traffic and Revenue Study Scenarios

- ▶ Testing eleven variable rate toll scenarios
 - The initial toll scenarios under study include rates ranging from \$1.50 to \$3.55 in year of toll commencement, depending on time of day.
 - 2.15% annual escalation is assumed
 - A low-income toll program is considered in some scenarios
 - Scenarios that consider no Oregon toll projects, or one Oregon toll project
 - Scenarios that consider lower pre-completion toll rates
- ▶ Toll rates for the IBR program will be determined in 2025 by the Oregon and Washington Transportation Commissions.
 - The level 2 Toll T&R does not determine toll rates but supports future joint rate setting work by the Commissions

Objectives of the IBR Level 3 Toll T&R Study

- ▶ **Provide detailed traffic and revenue projections sufficient to:**
 - Inform formal toll rate setting
 - Obtain an “investment-grade” credit rating to secure financing
- ▶ **Focus is on a narrow set of scenarios to facilitate in-depth analysis**
 - May include forecast stress-tests and risk analyses to address financial planning questions

Next Steps

- ▶ **Tolling is anticipated to start on the existing Interstate Bridge in 2026 after construction begins.**
 - Rates will be set about 6-8 months before tolling begins.
 - Tolling is expected to shift onto the replacement bridge once it opens to travelers.
- ▶ **Upcoming CAG involvement:**
 - Gaining an understanding of what it is like to travel on a WSDOT facility as a customer
 - Provide feedback to staff supporting the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Toll Subcommittee

Community Benefits Advisory Group (CBAG) Update

Aidan Gronauer, Assistant Director of Civil Rights & Equity

Past Meetings

▶ September 2023

- Introduction about Community Benefits for the IBR program, including their purpose, significance, and potential impact on the community
- Roles and responsibilities of the CBAG, co-conveners, and facilitators within the context of program development and implementation

▶ October 2023

- Adoption of the CBAG Charter
- Presentation on examples of potential community benefits associated with the program
- Discussion on potential community benefits important for communities

▶ November 2023

- Visioning what the program area could look like when construction is complete

Past Meetings

▶ December 2023

- SDEIS presentation from environmental team
- Review/discussion of CBAG recommendations from the October meeting

▶ January and February 2024

- Confirmation on first set of CBAG recommendations of potential community benefits that are time sensitive

▶ March 2024

- Workforce Study Presentation
- CBAG discussion of potential community benefits in Workforce Equity and Economic Opportunity category

Upcoming Meetings

- ▶ **May 2024**

- CBAG's discussion of potential community benefits in Community Benefits category

- ▶ **June 2024**

- CBAG's discussion of potential community benefits in Avoid Further Harm category

- ▶ **July 2024**

- CBAG's discussion of potential community benefits in Physical Design category



Examples of CBAG Confirmed Recommendations

Community Benefits Recommendations

All elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards

- ▶ **Mobility and Accessibility**

- Connect to transit service improvements
- Create bicycle amenities (repair kiosks, etc.)

- ▶ **Physical Design**

- Incorporate both active transportation facilities and greenspace throughout the program area
- Use anti-graffiti designs in the program area and incorporate new technology as it is developed

Community Benefits Recommendations

All elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards

► Community Benefits

- Transit Oriented Development
- Prioritize innovative developments on the land adjacent to the bridge, with a focus on projects that promote accessible and affordable housing.

► Avoid Further Harm

- Provide a publicly accessible community benefits dashboard showing progress on all community benefits, proposals and projects
- Require contractors to arrange off street parking for their site employees where feasible and reasonable



Community Engagement Update

Salomé Chimuku, IBR Community Engagement Lead

High Level Engagement Numbers

- ▶ **Time Frame: January 2024 – mid- March**
- ▶ **Number of Public Engagements: 45+**
 - Presentations
 - Interviews
 - Tours (Program Area and Bridge)
 - Office Hours
 - Public Briefings
 - Listening Sessions
 - Community Forums
 - CBO mini-grant events

Participating Community Organizations



CBO Mini Grant Engagement Numbers

- ▶ Listening Sessions: 7
- ▶ Community Forums: 2
- ▶ Community Participants: 235
- ▶ Equity Priority Community Members: 97%



What we heard

- ▶ **Community members have difficulties connecting with the environmental evaluation process**
- ▶ **Recommended outlets to reach community members**
- ▶ **Community members are most interested in:**
 - Safety & earthquake resiliency
 - Future economic opportunities related to workforce
 - Future economic impacts of construction on business and housing
 - Future impact of tolling on congestion and affordability
 - Traffic/congestion relief across the bridge, with special consideration for local traffic and freight
 - Bridge design for aesthetic, tourism, and recreational purposes

How We Plan to Incorporate Feedback

- ▶ Informing the type of events and style
- ▶ Direct outreach emails
- ▶ What we share after meetings
- ▶ Communications and slide development
- ▶ Closing feedback loops to show people how we used their data/feedback



Future Engagement Opportunities Planned to Support the Draft SEIS

► Public Briefings

- Understanding the NEPA process and Environmental Impact Statements.
- What to expect in the Draft SEIS.

► Listening Sessions

- What is being studied, and why?

► Equity Roundtable

- Make your voice heard: Participating in the Draft SEIS public comment period.



Discussion Questions

- ▶ Do you have any feedback you would like to add in response to the community engagement overview shared?
- ▶ What would be a helpful way for us to share information with you to support and promote our events?
- ▶ What data would you like us to consider collecting during our Summer events?
- ▶ Would you like to receive a report like this quarterly?

Upcoming Advisory Group Meetings

- ▶ Equity Advisory Group (EAG)
 - May 20, 2024 – 5:30 - 7:30 PM
- ▶ Community Benefits Advisory Group (CBAG)
 - May 23, 2024 – 9:30 - 11:30 AM



Public Comment

Comment Instructions

To make a verbal comment:

- ▶ To make a live comment via phone, dial: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 408 638 0968
 - Meeting ID: 986 0940 5983
 - Passcode: 701376
- ▶ Dial *9 to raise your hand
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- ▶ Dial *6 to unmute yourself
- ▶ 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 comments after the meeting:



- ▶ Fill out the comment form on the program website or email your comments to info@interstatebridge.org with “CAG Public Comment” in the subject line.



- ▶ Call **360-859-0494** (Washington), **503-897-9218** (Oregon), **888-503-6735** (toll-free) and state "CAG Public Comment" in your message.
- ▶ Written comments need to explicitly say “**CAG Public Comment**” in the subject line or in the body of the message for them to be identified and distributed to CAG members.
- ▶ All written comments must be received prior to 48 hours in advance of each upcoming meeting in order to be distributed to advisory group members. Comments received after that point will be distributed to members in advance of their next meeting.



For more information contact:

info@interstatebridge.org

360-859-0494 or 503-897-9218

888-503-6735

<https://www.interstatebridge.org>

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Thank you!

www.interstatebridge.org