

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Equity Advisory Group (EAG) Meeting Summary

Date and Time: 1/10/2022 – 5:30 pm PST

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Live

Concurrent YouTube viewers:

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization
IBR Staff	
Brent Hamlin	Technical Support
Emilee Thomas Peralta	IBR Equity Team
Greg Johnson	IBR Program Administrator
Jake Warr	IBR Equity Lead
Dr. Roberta Hunte	EAG Facilitator
Johnell Bell	IBR Principal Equity Officer
EAG Members	
John Gardner	TriMet
Karyn Kameroff	Community member
Matt Serres	Disability Rights Oregon
Megan Marie Johnson	Community member
Monica Tellez-Fowler	C-Tran
Nina Jones	WSDOT
Shona Carter	Community Foundation of SW Washington

Attendees	Organization
Shane Valle	PBOT
Dr. Steven Nakana	Port of Portland
Mark Harrington	SW Washington RTC
Matthew Hines	Community Member

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome & Outcomes

Dr. Roberta Hunte, EAG Meeting Facilitator

Dr. Hunte welcomed the group to 2022, reviewed the technical instructions for the meeting, and stated the agenda.

Program Administrator Update

Greg Johnson, IBR Program Administrator

Greg stated the IBR program has been tremendously busy over the last few weeks. The team is churning through data sets and different models and utilizing some screening criteria that was created by the EAG group to narrow down design options to what will eventually be the IBR solution or the draft Locally-Preferred Alternative (LPA).

The considered timeframe to be submitted and affirmed by the appropriate Boards and Councils is April or May. The next steps will be taking this to Bi-State Legislative group and federal partners for final signoff.

Information that will eventually be presented to the Executive Steering Group will go to EAG over the next few months to gather feedback on the recommendations.

OR State representatives requested conversations with the EAG to ensure their voices are heard and equity is reflected in the IBR program.

The program had a key critical 5 to 1 successful vote in front of Metro Council that went well. That vote approved use of 36 million that had already been allocated by the OR Transportation Commission. Transparency is key moving forward. One of the biggest discussions at Metro Council is - what are we doing in regard to equity? The Metro Council put together equity requests and we are already completing several of these requests.

Our Principal Equity and Principal Climate officers are working with statewide and regional goals for reduction of greenhouse gasses. EAG is key part of this discussion moving forward.

QUESTIONS

EAG Member: Have any Washington representatives reached out to talk to the EAG?

Greg: Not at this point. Greg and team will make offer to Washington legislators.

EAG Member: You mentioned DEI, the equity, inclusion percentages and apprenticeships for the program cannot be determined until we know what we are going to build. At what point can we make decisions to employ people with disabilities or minority contracting? What is the timeline?

Greg: This will be a deep dive when we discuss what apprenticeship looks like, and programs necessary to make DBEs successful on program like this. The ESG is starting conversations as approval on what we are going to build comes from the Bi-State legislative group early this summer. Sub-groups and committees will be formed to talk about what this looks like and how we can make it successful. We need commitments from partners before talking about the details. We think this summer the conversations are going to get started in earnest. EAG will examine and vet ideas on how to approach these critical issues for the program.

Johnell Bell: We will discuss key performance indicators tonight and start discussions today and the next several months to lay the foundation for how any Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), relative to what we want to achieve for workforce and DBE, and key performance indicators and value conversations can help, as well as asking questions like - What do we want to see at macro level?

EAG Member: Related to climate – do we have any data on CO2 emissions on idling now, as related to the bridge and traffic? How can CO2 emissions be relieved? Do we have conversation around this?

Greg: We have general ideas of gasses and congestion levels. We will check with Sarah Ogier, our Principal Climate Officer on a specific number. We know stop and go and idling produces most gasses. Looking at several solutions like solving congestion in the corridor, land use practices, how attractions are sited, how do people get to places.

Greg closes by thanking the EAG for their commitment to regional equitable practices on infrastructure production on their 1-year anniversary.

Community Advisory Group

Johnell Bell, Principal Equity Officer

Johnell: The CAG met on January 6th and discussed the modified LPA and program strategy; reviewed roles, values, and priorities; voted on top values, and ranked which design options to consider and assess against approved values.

Questions: None

Equity Framework Accountability

Emilee Thomas Peralta, Senior Associate – Equity and Policy

Emilee introduced the Accountability Reporting Tool. The tool is used to demonstrate that decision-making processes are incorporating the principles and objectives established in the Equity Framework. Program teams will conduct quarterly reviews, and reports from these reviews will be included on the Accountability Dashboard. Emilee previews the Equity Accountability Tracker spreadsheet questions and encourages feedback from group.

EAG Member: Challenges arise when talking about actions, processes, and decisions in one sentence. We need to ask ourselves what assumptions we are making of the language and how technical teams will interpret it.

EAG Member: Look at past comments and how the program is responding. Track how program is responding to comments and feedback. This could create a clear log for the program related to accountability.

Johnell: Asks team to catalog what we have heard from the EAG on a spreadsheet and reflect and respond directly.

Performance Measures 101:

Jake Warr, Equity Lead

Jake shared an understanding on what performance measures are and how they influence IBR:

Performance Measures are a way to look at outcomes and results and apply solid figures to produce reliable data with agreed-upon metrics. Performance measures will be used in IBR to help guide Community Benefits Agreements, understand long term success in working toward equitable outcomes, and add components of program accountability.

Examples of draft Performance Measures from I-5 Rose Quarter: potential for wealth creation, access for people walking and using mobility devices, environment that is welcoming, and a commitment to meaningful engagement of the historic Albina community.

Our process is four steps:

- 1) Identify outcomes
- 2) Establish performance measures
- 3) Lay out strategies

4) Plan specific actions

Some of the main points we've heard from you so far include measure improvements on how many people can get to work from Portland to Vancouver; measure transit ridership levels and travel times; improve accessibility and mobility for people with disabilities; and assess workforce equity and number of contracts

Starting with Equity Objectives:

- 1) Mobility and accessibility
- 2) Physical design
- 3) Community benefits
- 4) Workforce Equity and Economic opportunity
- 5) Decision-making processes
- 6) Avoid further harm

QUESTIONS:

EAG Member: Takes a moment to thank the team for the heavy work.

EAG Member: For these specific performance measures, are we looking for qualitative information as well as quantitative?

Jake: A mix of both, especially when it comes to equity.

EAG Member: Thanks for the work. What's the integration of applying the equity lens? How to hold folks implementing it accountable?

Jake: We need to be more specific about the outcomes we are looking for. We could use help in how to implement accountability.

EAG Member: Is there a feel for an ability to measure and account for what is expressed in the Equity Framework? Does program need help with meaningful equity measures?

Jake: We track engagement on the Accountability Dashboard, but it doesn't tell story of who we are engaging, and what impact the community has on things.

Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

Jake Warr, Equity Lead

In talking about different design options, the information takes time to sit with, grasp, absorb differences and equity implications. We can take a broad approach or a subset of design options to dive deeper into.

The LPA Refresher Components Include:

Bridge Crossing over the Columbia and Alignment (two options):

1. Two bridges
2. One bridge

Hayden Island and Marine Drive Interchanges

- Options at a high level:
 1. Full interchange: on- and off ramps- in both directions
 2. Partial interchange: on-ramp to the north & off-ramp from the north only
 3. No interchange

Downtown Vancouver

1. Options consider ways to connect downtown into a higher I-5 corridor
2. All design options connect the transit and multi-use path to downtown Vancouver
3. Additional analysis is needed to identify how to connect from downtown into the river crossing options

Vancouver Interchanges

- Reconstruct the interchanges with braided ramps and auxiliary lanes at Mill Plain and Fourth Plain and replaces overpasses at other locations along I-5 leading up to the river

Transit Options

- The IBR Program is analyzing 12 transit options

- High-Capacity Transit (HCT) options

Small Group Discussion:

1. How do we focus our time over the next several months?
 - a) Provide input on all design components of the LPA?
 - b) Prioritize a subset of design options
 - Which 2-3 are most crucial to meeting equity objectives?
 - Bridge Crossing over the Columbia
 - Hayden Island and Marine Drive Interchanges
 - Downtown Vancouver
 - Vancouver Interchanges
 - Transit
2. What data or information do you need to inform your thinking?

Small Group Discussion Summary after Breakout Room:

Johnell: 1) Reflect to EAG what we are hearing from the community; community surveys, listening sessions, create opportunities for the community-based organizations we gave mini-grants to. Prioritize Interchanges and transit. Consider equity around low-income housing on Hayden Island.

EAG Member: 2) We would like to see feedback and testimony from different listening sessions compiled into a data feed and relative to each option consider what the community would like to see

Emilee: 1) Tough to prioritize how to focus time due to equity implications. Discussed transit and downtown Vancouver options, safety, and access to bridge. 2) Initial useful information- statistics between transportation modes and higher usage rates to help inform a preference, hearing from businesses and communities on potential impacts. What does the transition between multi-use paths and transit look like. Environmental considerations of the different options and how people with disabilities use different transit options.

Jake: 1) Need more information to determine priorities. Provide as much information to communities as possible. 2) Look at other projects and case studies or impacts we can learn from.

Public Comment:

#6422 – Dave Roe from Battleground, WA.

#6455 –Brad Perkins

Dr. Hunte announced the next meeting on February 21, thanked the members, and closed the meeting.

Meeting Adjourn time: 7:30pm