

COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY GROUP (CBAG)

MEETING #1

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 / 2:00 – 4:00pm

Location: Hybrid (In-person and Zoom Meeting) and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 47

OUTCOMES

- CBAG members will learn about Community Benefits for the IBR program, including their purpose, significance, and potential impact on the community and programs.
- CBAG members use modified consensus to adopt group agreements.
- CBAG members will learn about the roles and responsibilities of the CBAG, co-conveners, and facilitators within the context of program development and implementation.
- CAG members will learn how to engage with the CBAG Framework Elements table and understand the direction of the work over the next 6 months.

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order and advisory group members, staff, and viewers were welcomed by Program Administrator Greg Johnson, who shared that the community benefits lie in the mitigation of construction impacts and focuses on community acceptance, while also looking to incorporate aesthetics and workforce considerations.

City of Portland Commissioner Mapps shared excitement about the program, emphasizing the importance of leveraging the \$6 billion investment for community benefits, considering potential park spaces (maintaining and converting surplus land), and acknowledging City of Vancouver Mayor McEnerny-Ogle's significant role.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle expressed enthusiasm for the historic program and the importance of mitigating construction impacts for residents and businesses.

Advisory group members and staff then introduced themselves and shared what lenses they bring to the work that inform their approach.

Advisory group members were presented with a collection of group agreements that govern how the CBAG meetings will operate which include putting relationships first, focusing on common goals, noticing power dynamics, creating space for multiple truths and norms, examining racially biased systems, and more.

Advisory group members were introduced to a modified consensus decision-making model that will be utilized in the CBAG's work to help members work towards decision points on recommendations to the program for community benefits.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Administrator Johnson introduced the program and highlighted its importance, particularly its significant role in trade and transportation. He emphasized the need for bridge replacement and shared the purpose and need of the program: safety, impaired freight movement, congestion, earthquake vulnerability, inadequate bicycle and pedestrian paths, and limited public transportation. Key partners for the program include the City of Portland, the City of Vancouver, CTRAN, TriMet, the Ports of Portland and Vancouver, Metro and RTC.

Administrator Johnson also discussed the program's commitment to equity and climate goals and shared that IBR is the only program to have a Principal Equity Officer and a Climate Officer. Additionally, the program created the Equity Advisory Group and Community Advisory Group to represent the needs and perspectives of local and diverse communities.

Administrator Johnson provided an overview of the program area, which spans from SR 500 to Victory Boulevard, with a focus on the Columbia River and its significance in trade. He shared that the program area includes the only movable span on I-5 between Mexico and Canada, and that there are only nine movable bridges on the entire U.S. interstate system.

Additional program highlights included:

- The current bridge's age and the cost of maintenance
- The importance of equitable and sustainable solutions
- The program aims to include input from diverse communities, and multiple languages are used for communication.
- Significant benefits, such as economic growth, reduced vehicle miles traveled, and climate resilience.
- The program schedule was outlined, highlighting the importance of adhering to deadlines to avoid cost increases.
- The need to have the contractor on board by 2025 to meet in-water work targets by 2026 was emphasized as a significant milestone.

A question was asked regarding the Hayden Island interchange and access. Administrator Johnson provided a description of the access to and from Hayden Island and the Marine Drive interchange using a local access bridge emphasizing that direct ramps to and from Hayden Island are planned.

FINANCE PLAN

Assistant Program Administrator Frank Green presented the finance plan and cost estimate for the IBR program. The cost estimate for the program ranges between \$5-7.5 billion, with the most likely estimate being around \$6 billion. This estimate accounts for inflation and potential risks such as delays and fluctuations in material costs.

The cost estimate is broken down into four distinct sections:

- The Interstate Bridge Replacement and its approaches, estimated between \$1.64 and \$2.45 billion.

- Transit investments, including an extension of light rail across North Portland Harbor and into downtown Vancouver, estimated between \$1.32 and \$1.99 billion.
- Washington interchanges, roadway, and shared use path estimated between \$0.99 and \$1.49 billion.
- Oregon Interchanges, Roadway improvements, and shared use path estimated between \$1.05 and \$1.57 billion.

Funding sources and financing options for the program include:

- \$1 billion from the Washington legislature
- \$1 billion from the Oregon legislature
- Authorization for tolling in both states
- Pursuit of approximately \$1 billion from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through a capital improvement grant.
- Pursuit of additional funds from federal programs, including the Bridge Investment Program and the Mega Grant, totaling between \$860 and \$1.8 billion.

Frank also shared that the program aims to maximize the economic benefits to the region, including job creation and economic activity during the construction phase.

An advisory group member commented that the program should also focus on ensuring that job opportunities are accessible to individuals, particularly youth, who may not have family connections in construction trades. The response was that efforts will be made to reach out to communities to inform them about job opportunities related to the program.

There was mention of considering workforce development and addressing the gap between the existing and projected workforce needs of the program.

Finally, Administrator Johnson explained to the advisory group members why the program decided not to pursue building a tunnel rather than a bridge after thorough research and consideration, with reasons including concerns about cost and practicality.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PRESENTATION

Emilee Thomas-Peralta, IBR Equity Team, shared an overview of the approach to community benefits for the IBR program.

Equity Framework: The IBR program has developed an Equity Framework to establish a foundation for equity in the program. Equity is defined as both process and outcome equity, focusing on embedding equity in the decision-making process and improving outcomes for equity priority communities.

The Equity Framework includes several key objectives:

- **Mobility and accessibility:** Improve mobility, accessibility, and connectivity, especially for lower income travelers, people with disabilities, and historically underserved communities who experience transportation barriers.
- **Physical Design:** Integrate equity, area history, and culture into the physical design elements of the program including bridge aesthetics, artwork, amenities, and impacts to adjacent land uses.

- Community Benefits: Find opportunities for and implement local community improvements in addition to required mitigations.
- Workforce equity and economic opportunity: Ensure that economic opportunities generated by the program benefit minority and women owned firms, BIPOC workers, workers with disabilities, and young people.
- Decision-making processes: Prioritize access, influence, and decision-making power for Equity Priority Communities throughout the program in establishing objectives, design, implementation, and evaluation of success.
- Avoid further harm: Actively seek out options with a harm-reduction priority rather than simply mitigate disproportionate impacts on historically impacted and underserved communities and populations.

Community Benefits Definition: These benefits will be developed with extensive community involvement, are a cooperative commitment between program partners and other parties and establish a range of recommended potential benefits for the local community that reflect the IBR Equity Framework principles and the diverse needs and perspectives of community. Community benefits are a key cornerstone of how the program is implementing its commitment to equity and will be captured in contract specifications, environmental documents, referred to in future Community Workforce Agreements (CWA)/Project Labor Agreements (PLA), and in partner Letters of Intent/Agreement for future work.

Components of potential Community Benefits for IBR include:

- Plans and mitigations already included in the program
- Program partner conditions
- Partner agency contributions
- Additional benefits identified by the CBAG and the community

Emilee clarified that community benefits are distinct from CWAs and PLAs, though the terms are often used interchangeably.

Questions and comments from CBAG members included:

- A member appreciated the discussion about the overall goals and expressed a need for more information on how these goals would be measured throughout the process. They emphasized the importance of having a way to track progress and suggested that the process should allow for flexibility to adjust the approach if necessary.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER

Shannon Singleton, IBR Community Benefits Lead, presented information from the CBAG Charter, including:

- Overview of Advisory Group's Scope:
 - Apply the Community Values & Priorities developed by CAG to the CBAG recommendation development process
 - Advise IBR on how to leverage the program's work and partnerships to achieve the greatest positive benefit to the communities in the program area and broader region from the program's work
 - Explore community benefits that align with the program's Equity Framework

- Advise IBR on the establishment of accountability mechanisms for commitments made in the CBAG process
- Additional Representation: The presentation mentioned that there would be additional representation on the advisory group, including members from the Equity Advisory Group (EAG) and the Community Advisory Group (CAG). It was noted that this committee would have an ODOT and WSDOT representative who were unable to make it to the first meeting to ensure alignment with the two state departments.
- Meeting Schedule: The schedule of future meetings was discussed, with an emphasis on meeting at least monthly from now through March. There was flexibility built in to adjust the schedule if needed. It was also mentioned that meetings would continue to be held in a hybrid format.
- Group Norms: The presentation highlighted the group norms, which included relying on the program's equity framework, collaborative and good-faith interactions, reviewing materials before meetings, and being conscious of power dynamics and privilege.

Questions from advisory group members:

- A member raised concerns about the population of people experiencing homelessness in the program area and inquired about whether there would be representation or plans to address the needs of people both during and after construction.
 - Response: Shannon responded by acknowledging the issue of homelessness and expressed the intent to work with advocates and organizations. She mentioned that they aimed to be partners in addressing homelessness, possibly through job opportunities and potential affordable housing development.
- Differentiation Between Advisory Groups: The differentiation between the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the Community Benefits Advisory Group (CBAG) was explained. While CAG addresses a broad range of issues related to the program, CBAG has a focused role in identifying and recommending community benefits.
- Role of Equity Framework: The role of the equity framework in guiding the process was emphasized, and it was reiterated that not all recommendations from CBAG would necessarily end up in environmental documents, but some might also be included in contract specifications or other aspects of the program.

CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting concluded with closing remarks and expressions of gratitude for the presenters.

NEXT PROGRAM MEETINGS:

- Community Advisory Group – October 12, 2023
- Equity Advisory Group – October 16, 2023
- Community Benefits Advisory Group – October 26, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments for this meeting.

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization
CBAG Members	
Mingus Mapps	City of Portland's Commissioner
Anne McEnerny-Ogle	City of Vancouver's Mayor
Darcy Hoffman	Workforce SW WA
Kelly Haines	Worksystem, Inc
Javier Navarro	SW WA Chapter of Lulac
Scott McCallum	WA School for the Blind
Peter Fels	Alliance for Community Engagement
Holly Williams	Community at large
Michael Strahs	Kimco
Corky Collier	Columbia Corridor Association
Marcus Mundy	Coalition of Communities of Color
Ben Jacobsen	Jane's Forum
Jessica Green	Portland Parks Foundation
Jasmine Tolbert	YWCA Clark County

Attendees	Organization
IBR Staff	
Greg Johnson	Program Administrator
Frank Green	Assistant Program Administrator
Raymond Mabey	Assistant Program Administrator
Johnell Bell	Principal Equity Officer
Aidan Grounauer	Civil Rights & Equity Manager
Shannon Singleton	Community Benefits Advisory Group Lead
Emilee Thomas	Equity Team
Jim Ruddell	Program Manager

Attendees	Organization
Eric Trinh	Equity Team
Salome Chimuku	Technical Support
Brent Hamlin	Technical Support
Zander Arnold	Technical Support
Mara Enciu Garrett	Technical Support

Additional Participants

47 members of the public, partner agency staff, and the IBR team viewed the meeting via the YouTube livestream during the meeting.

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHv4Bn10ExM>

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: <https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cbag-meeting-september-27-2023/>