



Interstate  
**BRIDGE**  
*Replacement Program*



# Equity Advisory Group

April 15, 2024

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# Reminders

- ▶ We encourage EAG members to turn on your video.
- ▶ Please say your name when you begin to speak.
- ▶ If you experience technical difficulties, please contact program staff at: **(360) 329-6744**

# 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](mailto:info@interstatebridge.org) with “EAG Public Comment” in the subject line
  - Call 888-503-6735 and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message



# Today's agenda

- ▶ Icebreaker
- ▶ Program Administrator Update
- ▶ Equity Updates
- ▶ Community Engagement Discussion
- ▶ CBAG Updates
- ▶ Transit Station Design Discussion
- ▶ Public Comment
- ▶ Close Out

# Icebreaker

- ▶ Name + pronouns
- ▶ Affiliation
- ▶ If you could have any superpower for a day, what would it be and how would you use it?



# Program Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

# Tolling Oregon & Washington Commission Coordination

- ▶ In January, the Commissions signed an intergovernmental agreement setting up a bi-state toll subcommittee that will recommend rates and policies to the full Commissions of each state.
- ▶ The Commissions will jointly determine:
  - Rate-setting
    - *Hours of operation*
    - *Time of day rates & truck multiplier rates*
    - *Escalation*
  - Exemptions and/or Discounts
- ▶ These topics will be part of ongoing commission discussions with rates and policies being set about 6-8 months before tolling begins.
- ▶ Next Meeting: April 19, 2024





# Equity Updates

Johnell Bell, Equity Team

# Introduction

- ▶ In January 2024, the IBR program's Equity team engaged with individual members of the Equity Advisory Group (EAG) to obtain their objectives for the year ahead.
- ▶ This report serves as an overview of the key insights gathered from these individual interviews that can inform and enhance the ongoing initiatives of the Equity team, community engagement efforts, and the IBR program as a whole.

# Key Insights

- ▶ EAG members underscored the crucial role of engaging communities and identifying economic opportunities for Equity Priority Communities.
- ▶ Advocated for forward-thinking, inclusive long-term plans, emphasizing the bridge as a focal point for community unity.
- ▶ Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of virtual meetings, especially for those not technologically proficient.

# Recommendations

- ▶ Organize in-person events near the project area to foster transparency and community involvement.
- ▶ Develop a comprehensive communication plan for equity in workforce development and involvement of DBEs/SBOs.
- ▶ Implement shorter, focused meetings complemented by occasional in-person events to reinforce community bonds.



# Community Engagement Discussion

Salomé Chimuku, Community Engagement Lead

# Discussion Questions

- ▶ Do you have any feedback that you would like to add in response to the community engagement overview shared last month?
- ▶ ?
- ▶ What are some things you would like to add to the community feedback?
- ▶ What would be helpful materials we could share with you to make you feel like you can help promote events?

# Community Benefits Advisory Group (CBAG) Update

Emilee Thomas-Peralta, Equity Team

# 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

- Draft SEIS 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 Opportunities category

# Upcoming Meetings

## ▶ April 2024

- Presentation on Tribal government consultation and Section 106
- CBAG discussion of potential community benefits in Mobility and Accessibility category

## ▶ 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



# CBAG Confirmed Recommendations

# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Mobility and Accessibility — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards**
  - Connect to transit service improvements
  - Create bicycle amenities (repair kiosks, etc.)
  - Create pedestrian safety measures, such as speed bumps and signs
  - Provide adequate bicycle signage and enhance wayfinding, both during construction and after program for safety enhancement in local communities
  - Use universal design and be radically inclusive

# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Mobility and Accessibility — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards**
  - Create accessible trails and networks with lighting for safety, balanced with considerations for ecosystem health
    - *The program will explore accessibility needs with people with disabilities and groups serving them and non-car using groups*
  - Create efficient public transit to key locations, integrating design elements to improve user experience
  - Design active transportation facilities to create a comfortable, low-stress experience, prioritizing the safety of vulnerable users and providing convenient access from the local network to new facilities
  - Consideration for cost analysis for financial and feasible implementation
  - Design team will communicate/follow up with the group about the design choices and the rationale behind those

# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Physical Design — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards**
  - Create designs that prioritize preservation and enhancement of natural features, focusing on the views both from and towards the bridge while working within the constraints of the bridge structure to maintain structural integrity and safety
    - *Include viewpoints or designated areas for cyclists and pedestrians on the bridge to enhance their experience and safety*
  - Use anti-graffiti designs in the program area and incorporate new technology as it is developed
  - Explore mitigation strategies to reduce highway noise for pedestrians, cyclists, local businesses, residents, and all bridge users
  - Use material options that are sustainable and environmentally friendly (balancing decisions to use low carbon materials, costs, and life of materials) into the program design, including local elements (examples include ash and shells)
    - *Consider other emissions as well*
  - Create greenspaces throughout the program area and use native plants to enhance ecological benefits
  - Connect to the local community within the program area including Evergreen Blvd, Hayden Island, Marine Drive, and Waterfront
  - Define community connectors (freeway lid) near Evergreen and the waterfront

# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Physical Design** — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards
  - Incorporate both active transportation facilities and greenspace throughout the program area
  - Implement east/west connectivity and accessibility within the program area
  - Coordinate/salvage existing bridge elements for public display
  - Integrate art and local history and culture into the bridges and program area designs, at various scales, to enhance its aesthetic appeal and connection to the community, creating a distinct and iconic bridge
    - *Consider design with an eye toward ice and other severe weather conditions*
    - *Include designs that honor the contributors to the program and the bridge construction, including designers and builders*
    - *Include accountability to ensure that various contractors are adhering to the aesthetic and design specifications to create consistent design throughout the program area*
  - Consider where there is an opportunity for a welcome center that will include a curated display of the history of the region, approved materials, photo documentation of the existing bridge, and salvaged plaques from the existing bridge
  - Consider where there is an opportunity to explore a truck inspection facility

# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Community Benefits — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards**
  - Create riverfront public access points and provide recreational opportunities, communal and open space including areas for fishing and hiking on both sides of the river, where feasible (while this should be explored across the program area, there should be extra effort to provide access to the river on Hayden Island)
    - *This should include multimodal access points and connect to existing amenities*
  - Explore partnership options with Metro regarding the Expo Center. Be sure to acknowledge, understand, and honor the significance of this location and honor the work already done to develop plans for this site
  - Transit Oriented Development
  - Prioritize innovative developments on the land adjacent to the bridge, with a focus on projects that promote accessible and affordable housing.



# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Avoid Further Harm — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards**
  - Establish systems for continuous monitoring of noise, dust, vibration, and air quality during program construction to mitigate impacts, to homes, businesses, and other properties. Pre-construction conditions will be measured to use as a baseline for monitoring
  - 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
  - Mitigate noise and dust impacts to homes and businesses prior to and during construction
  - Limit closures of sidewalks, bike lanes and bus lanes near construction sites to minimize impacts on non-motorized transit
  - Work with highly impacted residents to determine mitigations during construction, such as installation of sound and dust-proof windows in a timely fashion before construction begins, and hotel vouchers during the noisiest/overnight operations if certain noise levels are exceeded, etc.

# Community Benefits Recommendations

- ▶ **Avoid Further Harm — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards**
  - Set up portable speed monitoring on adjacent neighborhood
  - Create a process to monitor volumes and speeds on local streets within program area and, when warranted per local traffic code, install speed bumps or tables to address safety during construction
  - Establish challenging electric vehicle or low emissions requirements as part of contract documents; explore opportunities for renewable diesel and incentives
  - Retrofit diesel construction vehicles, or require use of renewable diesel where feasible and reasonable, to curb air pollution prior to the start of construction
  - Incentivize the installation of electric charging stations in the construction zone for contractor use to meet EV requirements. These charging stations are to be placed so that they may become convenient public facilities after construction is complete and ongoing operations and ownership is determined
  - Install electric lines in advance of the start of construction to avoid future disruption for charging stations



# Transit Station Design Discussion

Mahlon Clements & Ben Deines  
Design Team



# Equity Objectives

## Lenses to understand design

# Equity 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:

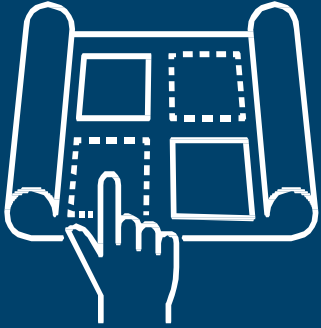
- Prioritize access, influence, and decision-making power for Equity Priority Communities throughout the program in establishing objectives, design, implementation, and evaluation of success.

## ▶ 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.

# Discussion

- ▶ **What questions do you have?**
- ▶ **What design elements from each concept align with the IBR Equity Objectives?**
- ▶ **Are there changes to each station concept you would like to see considered?**
- ▶ **What would you like to hear from other IBR advisory groups (eg CAG, CBAG)?**



# Focus Area Planning

## Vancouver Waterfront Focus Area

# Public Comment



# Comment Instructions

- ▶ Through Zoom:
  - ▶ Please use the link located in the meeting description on the YouTube meeting page or on the IBR EAG meeting webpage.
  - ▶ Commenters will be allowed to turn on their webcams, but will not be allowed to share their screens and will be removed from the room once the public comment period concludes.
- ▶ By phone:
  - ▶ Dial 253-215-8782
  - ▶ Meeting ID: 986 0940 5983
  - ▶ Passcode: 701376
  - ▶ Dial \*9 to raise your hand
  - ▶ Dial \*6 to unmute yourself
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation.
- ▶ Commenters will be given 2 minutes to speak.



or



# Comment Instructions

## To submit comment after the meeting:



- ▶ Fill out the comment form on the program website or email your comments to [info@interstatebridge.org](mailto:info@interstatebridge.org) with “**EAG Public Comment**” in the subject line.



- ▶ Call **888-503-6735** and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message.
- ▶ 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.

# Wrap up

- Meeting evaluation
- Next meeting: May 20, 5:30 – 7:30pm