



Community Advisory Group Meeting

September 8, 2022



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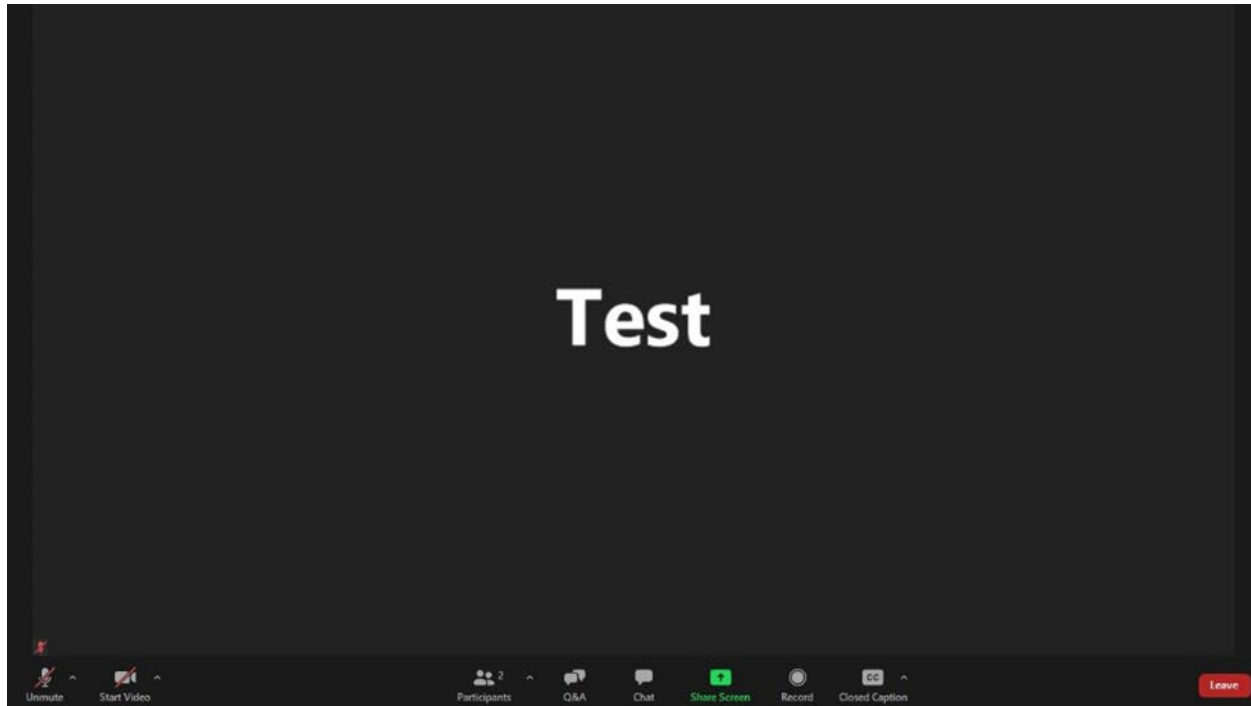
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Los subtítulos en Inglés están disponibles en Zoom y YouTube.

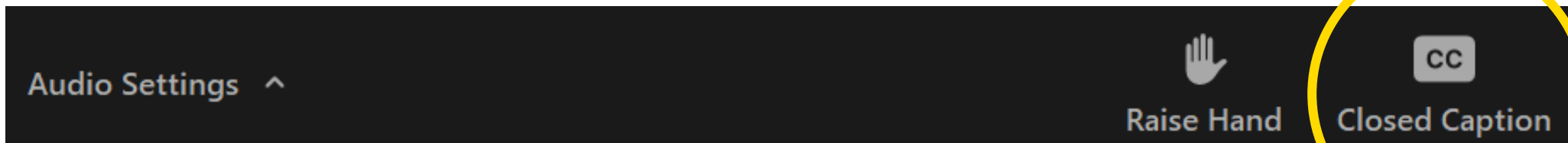
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How to access closed captions



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. Then 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.

Webinar 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

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



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- ▶ **To submit comment after the meeting:**
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CAG member commitments & operating norms

- ▶ 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

Meeting Agenda

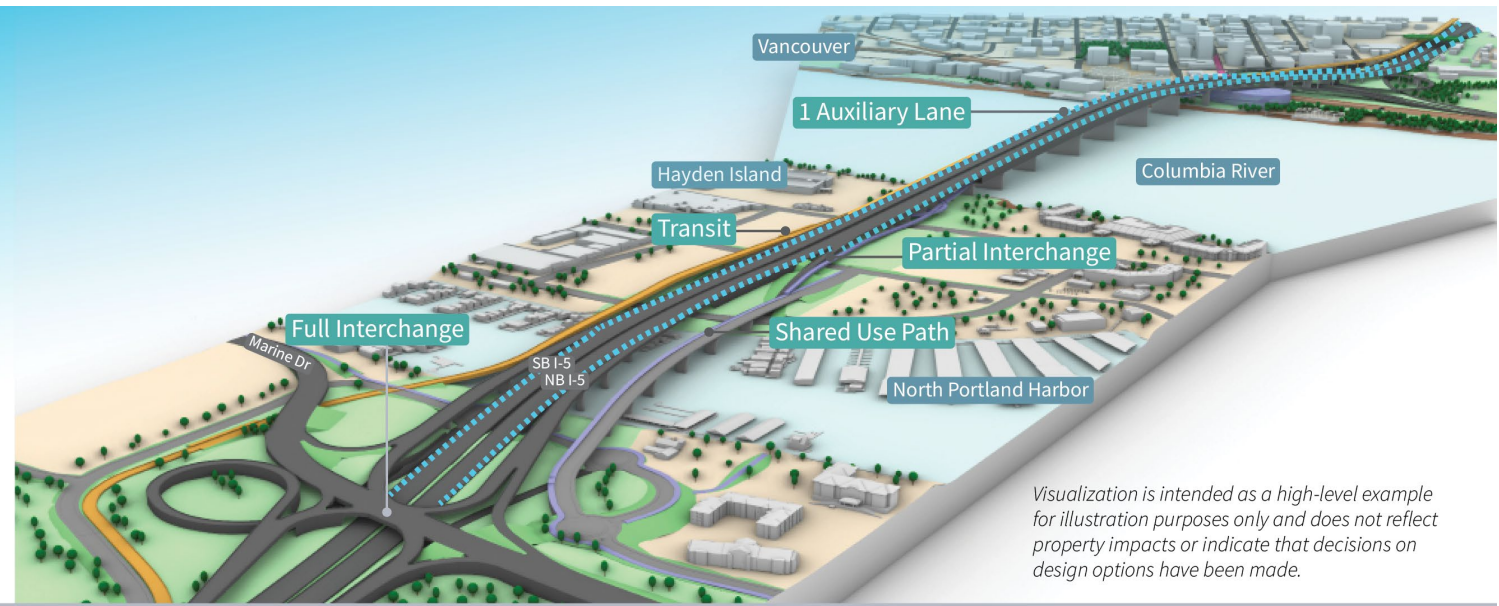
1. Welcome
2. Program update
3. National Environmental Policy Act
4. IBR Community Engagement
5. What's next, public comment, wrap up

Program update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator


IBR: Modified LPA

Hayden Island: **Partial Interchange**
 River Crossing Auxiliary Lanes: **1**
 Transit: **Light Rail to Evergreen near I-5**
 Variable Rate Tolling: **Yes**




Visualization is intended as a high-level example for illustration purposes only and does not reflect property impacts or indicate that decisions on design options have been made.


Partial Interchange Summary

 <p>Hayden Island Drive local-only trips and Tomahawk Island Drive extension increase Hayden Island east-west connectivity</p>	 <p>Smaller interchange leaves space for a comfortable pedestrian environment and opportunities for open space</p>	 <p>Addresses safety and congestion by improving active transportation, adding shoulders, increasing lane widths and improving ramp merges</p>
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Benefits of Expanding LRT from Expo to Evergreen

4 Stations* 

3,000+ Residents are within a half mile walk

26% BIPOC  **41%** Low-income

*Includes the existing Expo station and 3 new stations.

Equity - Jobs Accessible via Transit (% increase)*

68% General **73%** BIPOC

59% Low-income **71%** People w/ disabilities

*Increase in jobs accessible from the program area within a 45 minute midday transit ride. Percent increase determined by adding LRT Expo to Evergreen compared to 2045 No Build.

Climate - GHG Reduction*

36,000 metric tons/year or the equivalent of

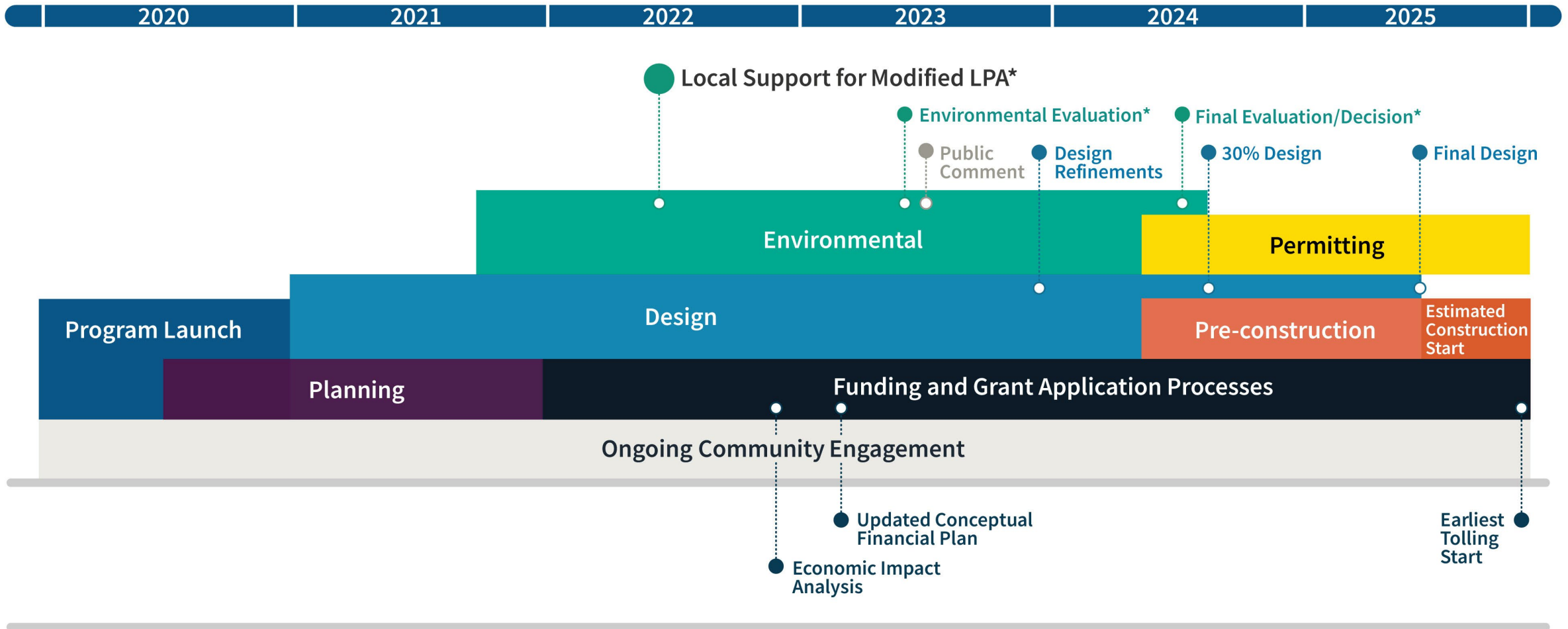
7,000 homes' electricity for one year **OR** **89,400,000** miles driven by gas powered car

*GHG reduction is an estimate calculated from the displacement (or avoidance) in the shift from cars to transit.

Strategies to Combat Climate Change

- Demand Management, including Variable Rate Tolling (tolling will consider price reductions for low-income users and low-carbon vehicles)
- Increase traffic operation efficiencies (ramp metering and auxiliary lanes)
- Mode shift from cars to active transportation and transit
- Low-carbon emission construction strategies

IBR Program Timeline



*The Modified LPA will be evaluated in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Design refinements will respond to findings from the environmental review and feedback received during the public comment period. A Record of Decision represents federal authorization to move into final design and construction.

Other Program Updates

- ▶ **Update on Community Benefits Agreement progress and framework**
- ▶ **Coast Guard**
- ▶ **Partner conditions**
- ▶ **Federal Funding**



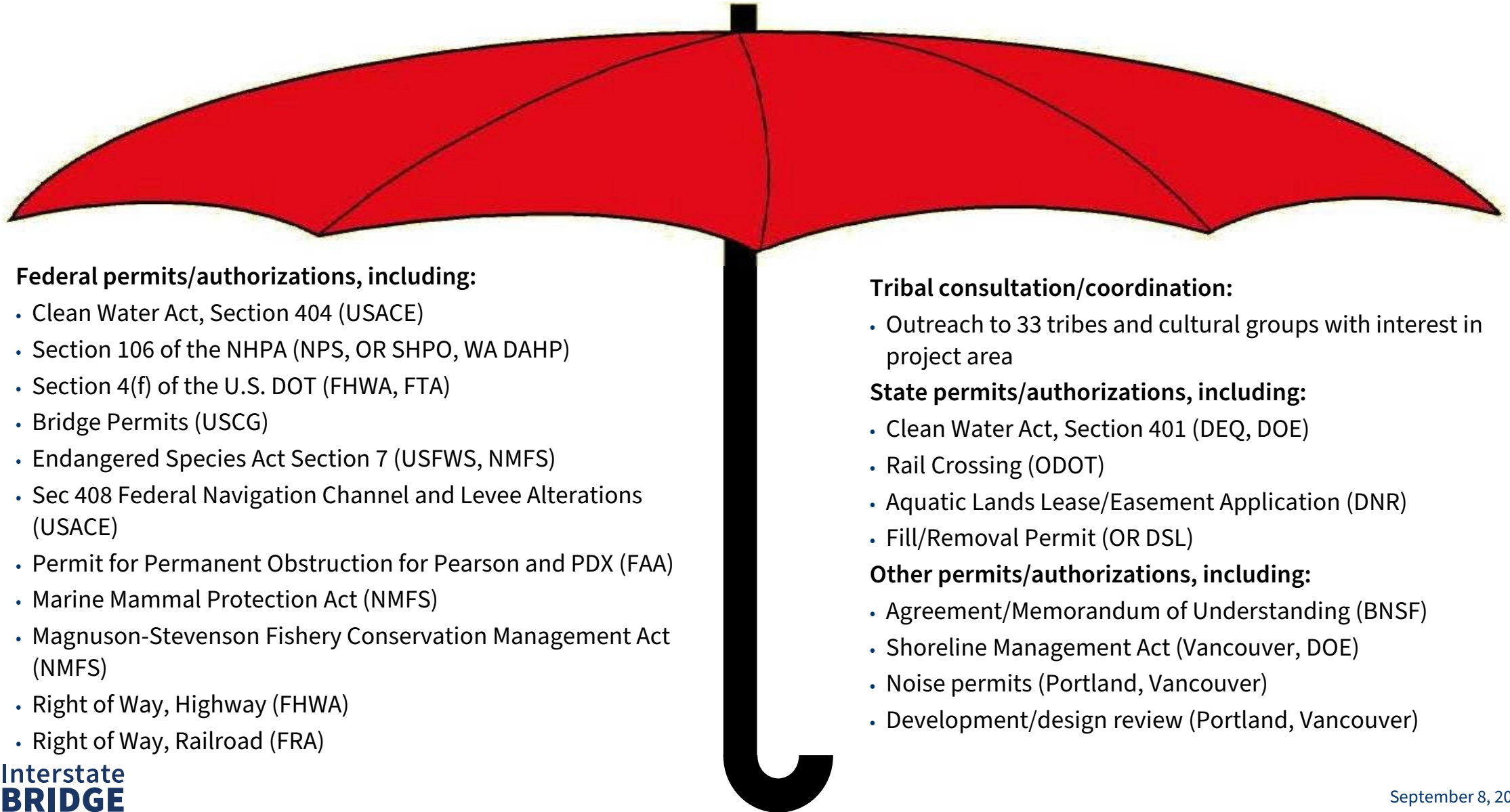
National Environmental Policy Act

Angela Findley, IBR Environmental Task Lead

What is NEPA?

- ▶ **National Environmental Policy Act of 1970**
- ▶ **Requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed major Federal actions prior to making decisions**
- ▶ **Ensures agencies consider the significant environmental consequences of their proposed actions and inform the public about their decision making**

The NEPA “Umbrella”



Federal permits/authorizations, including:

- Clean Water Act, Section 404 (USACE)
- Section 106 of the NHPA (NPS, OR SHPO, WA DAHP)
- Section 4(f) of the U.S. DOT (FHWA, FTA)
- Bridge Permits (USCG)
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 (USFWS, NMFS)
- Sec 408 Federal Navigation Channel and Levee Alterations (USACE)
- Permit for Permanent Obstruction for Pearson and PDX (FAA)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (NMFS)
- Magnuson-Stevenson Fishery Conservation Management Act (NMFS)
- Right of Way, Highway (FHWA)
- Right of Way, Railroad (FRA)

Tribal consultation/coordination:

- Outreach to 33 tribes and cultural groups with interest in project area

State permits/authorizations, including:

- Clean Water Act, Section 401 (DEQ, DOE)
- Rail Crossing (ODOT)
- Aquatic Lands Lease/Easement Application (DNR)
- Fill/Removal Permit (OR DSL)

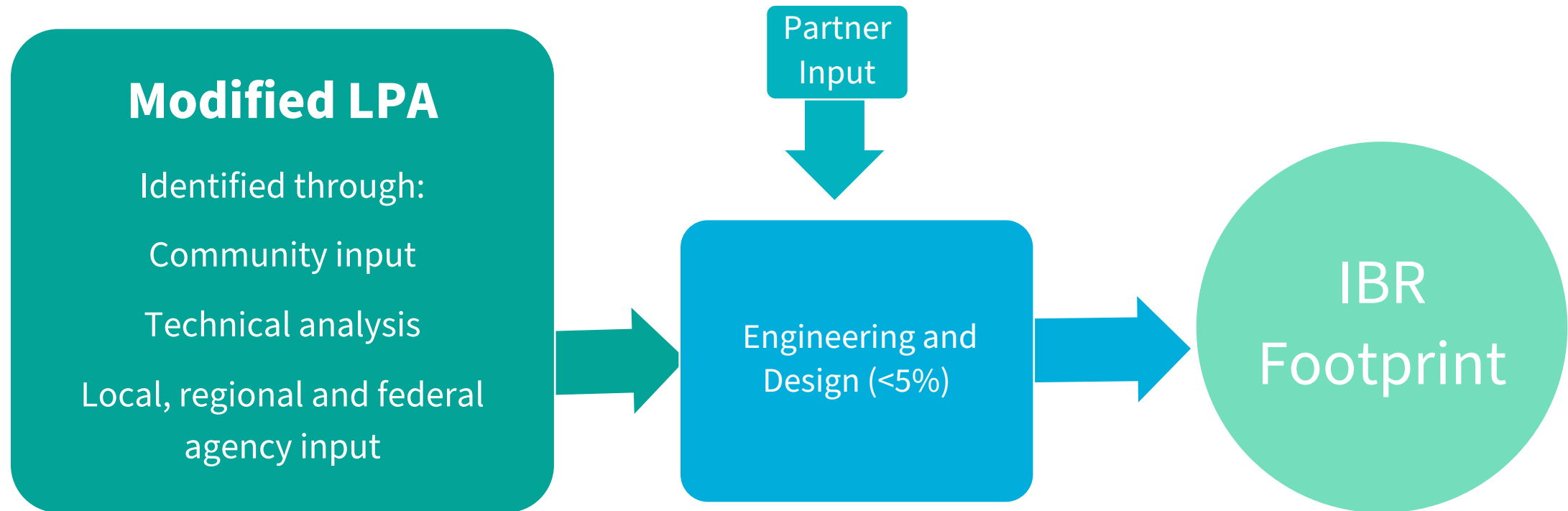
Other permits/authorizations, including:

- Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (BNSF)
- Shoreline Management Act (Vancouver, DOE)
- Noise permits (Portland, Vancouver)
- Development/design review (Portland, Vancouver)

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

- ▶ ***Supplements*** (or builds on) past NEPA documents and decisions
- ▶ Focuses analysis on components that have changed since prior planning efforts
- ▶ Establishes corridor-wide footprint for detailed analysis of benefits and impacts
 - Design details in the Supplemental **Draft** EIS are conceptual (~5% design)
 - Design details in the Supplemental **Final** EIS will be advanced to about 15% design and refined based on partner input, public comment, other studies completed, mitigation commitments, etc.

Determining the Modified LPA footprint for NEPA Analysis



- ▶ Determines area of impact in order to define study area
- ▶ The footprint allows the program to study and understand impacts of the adopted Modified LPA
- ▶ Footprint does not reflect final design or decisions

Elements of the Environmental Analysis

- ▶ Acquisitions
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Archaeology
- ▶ Aviation
- ▶ Climate
- ▶ Cumulative
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Ecosystems
- ▶ Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Geology and Groundwater
- ▶ Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Historic Built Environment
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Neighborhoods and Populations
- ▶ Noise and Vibration
- ▶ Parks and Recreation
- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Section 4(f)
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Utilities
- ▶ Visual and Aesthetics
- ▶ Water Quality and Hydrology
- ▶ Wetlands

What's in the Supplemental Draft EIS?

Ch 1	Purpose and Need
Ch 2	Description of Alternatives
Ch 3	Existing Conditions and Environmental Consequences
Ch 4	Financial Analysis
Ch 5	Revised Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
Ch 6	Public Involvement and Tribal Consultation

- ▶ **Evaluate two Alternatives**
 - Updated No Build Alternative
 - Modified LPA
- ▶ **Design is conceptual (~5%)**
 - General alignments and locations of transportation facilities
- ▶ **Impacts and benefits**
 - Mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis
- ▶ **Mitigation**
 - Proposed measures to address unavoidable adverse impacts where possible

Supplemental Draft EIS Comment Period

Your voice is important – we want to hear from you!

- ▶ Supplemental Draft EIS will be published and posted to the IBR program website
- ▶ Public comment period – **Summer 2023**
- ▶ Multiple forums to submit comments, including but not limited to:
 - Online comment forms
 - Emails and letters to IBR program
 - Comment forms and oral testimony at public hearing
- ▶ **Comments must be submitted in written form or oral testimony in order to be included in the public comment record**

Make Your Opinion Heard

- ▶ **Comments that provide specific detail enable the program team to better understand your preferences or concerns, such as:**
 - **Components of the Modified LPA**
 - *What do you see as the most important benefits of the Modified LPA?*
 - *How can the Modified LPA be improved?*
 - **Environmental impact and benefit analysis**
 - *Is it clear how conclusions were made and do they make sense?*
 - *Are any impacts or benefits missing that should be considered?*
 - **Potential mitigation options for adverse impacts**
 - *Are there other mitigation measures that the program should consider?*

How does the Supplemental Final EIS differ from the Draft?

- ▶ **Supplemental Final EIS**
 - Consider all comments submitted during the Supplemental Draft EIS comment period
 - Refine the Modified LPA in response to public comments and other design considerations
 - Update, correct, and augment the environmental impact and benefit analysis
 - Include additional regulatory compliance activities and findings
 - Commit to specific mitigation
- ▶ **Record of Decision issued by the lead federal agencies and documents the alternative that is selected to advance to further design and construction**
- ▶ **A Combined Supplemental Final EIS and Record of Decision is planned – Summer 2024**

NEPA and Other Regulatory Milestones

- ▶ **Supplemental Draft EIS: Summer 2023**
- ▶ **Public Comment Period: Summer 2023**
- ▶ **Combined Supplemental Final EIS and ROD: Summer 2024**
- ▶ **National Historic Preservation Act**
 - Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and Mitigation Plan: **Early 2024**
- ▶ **Endangered Species Act**
 - Section 7 Biological Opinion: **Mid 2024**
- ▶ **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
 - Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit: **Late 2025/Early 2026**
 - Rivers and Harbors Act Section 408 Navigation Channel/Levee Alterations: **Late 2025/Early 2026**
- ▶ **U.S. Coast Guard**
 - Rivers and Harbors Act Section 9 Bridge Permits: **Late 2025/Early 2026**



Questions or Feedback?



IBR Community Engagement

Nicole Sherbert, IBR Community Engagement Lead

Fairs and Festivals

This summer, IBR attended the following events occurring within the program area:

- ▶ Good in the Hood (*June 25-26*)
- ▶ Vancouver Pride (*July 9*)
- ▶ Vancouver Farmers Market (*August 13*)
- ▶ King Farmers Market (*August 21*)
- ▶ Kenton Farmers Market (*September 7*)



Fairs and Festivals

- ▶ 500+ direct interactions
- ▶ Generally very positive in tone
- ▶ Direct quotes:
 - “What do I need to say to get a bridge?”
 - “Terribly disappointed when the project didn’t happen last time.”
 - “Excited that transit will be coming to Vancouver. It will encourage more people to take transit.”
 - “I’d use light rail every day.”
 - “I’m really excited about light rail.”
 - “Keep centering equity.”
 - “Congratulations, this new effort is phenomenal!”
 - “Great job!”
 - “I love it!”



Updated Community Engagement Plan

- ▶ Community Engagement Efforts To Date
- ▶ Engagement Commitments
- ▶ IAP2
- ▶ Objectives and Strategies
- ▶ Tools and Tactics
- ▶ Engagement Tracking and Reporting



Tools and Tactics

- ▶ Advisory Groups
- ▶ Affinity Sessions
- ▶ Community Working Groups
- ▶ Bus and Walking Tours
- ▶ Community Briefings
- ▶ Roundtables
- ▶ Online Open Houses
- ▶ Hybrid Public Meetings
- ▶ Canvassing and Pop-Ups
- ▶ Event Tabling
- ▶ Surveys
- ▶ Newsletters

Upcoming Engagement

▶ Fall 2022

- Briefings to community based organizations and neighborhoods
- Program area tours
- Community Roundtable: Why Equity Matters in Infrastructure – September 28

▶ Winter/Spring 2023

- Mini Grant partnerships with CBOs
- Affinity listening sessions
- Online and in-person open house
- Community Briefings

▶ Summer 2023

- Public hearings for the SDEIS
- Community Briefings
- Affinity listening sessions
- Event tabling

CAG feedback

How can the CAG support the program's community engagement activities?

What elements does CAG feel are most important for the community know about/ provide input on?

Upcoming Opportunities for Input from CAG

- ▶ **Upcoming opportunities for CAG engagement and feedback**
 - Bridge type
 - Transit station design/location and access
 - Active transportation design and access
 - Community Benefits Agreement
- ▶ **What decisions and program element would the CAG like to be involved in over the next 9 months?**
- ▶ **What topics/ information do you want to learn more about?**

What's next?

Next Program Meetings

- ▶ Executive Steering Group
 - September 15, 10:00-12:00 p.m.
- ▶ Equity Advisory Group
 - September 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Community Advisory Group
 - October 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Future CAG meeting topics

- ▶ Modified LPA footprint
- ▶ IBR Workplan
- ▶ Community Benefit Agreement
- ▶ IBR financial estimate
- ▶ CAG 2023 – Purpose, Role, Schedule



Public Comment

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 - 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.



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Wrap up

Final Thoughts



Thank you!

