

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY VALUES AND PRIORITIES TO INFORM PROGRAM WORK

The Interstate Bridge Replacement program is committed to utilizing and updating past work as appropriate to maximize past investment and support efficient decision-making, while also taking into account changes that have occurred since the previous planning process to identify a solution that meets current and future community needs and priorities. The program is working with partners to identify what has changed contextually and physically since previous planning efforts to help determine which pieces of past work remain valid and what new design options should be considered. Community priorities are important elements for developing design option screening criteria and program performance measures.

The program held a targeted period of community engagement between January – April 2021 to (1) gather specific feedback from the advisory groups and public regarding the transportation problems they experience with the Interstate Bridge and (2) understand the community priorities and values that would help to shape the program. These engagement efforts demonstrated that the community is eager to begin digging into the details of a bridge replacement solution.

Community engagement feedback from these efforts is being used to inform what values and priorities should be taken into consideration as design options are determined. This includes developing climate and equity frameworks and corresponding performance measures to help embed these commitments throughout program work. Screening criteria will be developed based on the climate and equity frameworks, along with the community values and priorities, which will be used to help shape design options and guide decision-making.

This document provides a summary of feedback and comments received during recent engagement efforts. The community values and priorities are intended to serve as a starting point as screening criteria are developed to determine design options.

What the program has heard regarding the transportation problems people face with the existing Interstate Bridge:

- While the six transportation problems previously identified remain valid, some existing conditions have changed that should be taken into consideration.
- Congestion, seismic resiliency, and safety were frequently cited as top concerns by agencies, organizations, advisory groups, and the community.
- There is widespread agreement these transportation problems exist today: congestion and reliability, transportation safety, earthquake vulnerability, impaired freight movement, inadequate bike, pedestrian, rolling and other forms of **active transportation** connections, and limited public transit.

Community values and priorities identified that should be considered to help determine design options and shape program outcomes:

Feedback from the community and partners emphasized that equity and climate considerations are a high priority for the region. The program shares the commitment to equity and climate considerations and is working with program partners to embed these priorities throughout the program in actionable and measurable ways. Equity and climate consideration frameworks are being developed in order to define program performance measures and will also be used along with the following values and priorities to develop screening criteria to help determine design options.

- Providing all modes of transportation to increase capacity of the bi-state river crossing is essential to effectively and safely moving more people, goods, and services, including mobility and access.
- Past transportation projects have caused harm to communities of concern. The program should **center equity** and avoid further harm to communities and individuals. Equity is both an outcome as well as a process.
- There is a strong correlation between transportation and climate change. The program should advance opportunities to reduce impacts from transportation facilities and improve resiliency to global **climate change**.
- To the extent possible, relevant demographic, transportation, and other key data should be made available to support **informed, data-driven decision-making** at all levels of the program.
- **Cost effectiveness** should be assessed through concepts of affordability, recognizing future funding challenges, and planning for and designing a bridge that will serve future generations beyond our own. Fiscal responsibility in design, construction, maintenance, and long-term operations, including emerging technology that could solve future problems should be considered.
- Creating opportunities for local job creation through apprenticeship and training and career pathways as well as opportunities for BIPOC, women, and disadvantaged owned businesses and a diverse workforce. Growth and increased access contribute to **economic empowerment** and a thriving economy.
- **Congestion** does not just affect personal vehicles; it impacts freight deliveries for companies (small and large), reduces public transit reliability when mixed in traffic, and reduces safety.
- Transit and active transportation facilities must reflect the needs of all ages and abilities, and remove barriers, including language, to access and ensure availability of **transportation choices**.
- **Natural resources** should be protected and enhanced including fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.
- Cultural and historical heritage and resources should be protected and honored.

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- Foster leadership and **cooperation** between bi-state program partners to improve program outcomes, keeping the bi-state conversation focused to ensure the burden of fiscal and operational responsibility is shared for mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Provide ongoing opportunities for meaningful, equitable and transparent **community engagement**.