



Equity Advisory Group Meeting

March 8, 2021

Welcome

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

Closed Captions in English and Spanish

English closed captions are available within Zoom and YouTube.

Users can follow this link to view both English and Spanish captions in a separate browser window:

<https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=IBR>

Subtítulos disponible en Inglés y Español

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.

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 with “EAG Public Comment” in the subject line
 - Call 360-905-1560 and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Review Guiding Norms
2. Community engagement update
3. Equity definition, continued
4. Equity in Purpose & Need statement
5. Public comment
6. Wrap up

Guiding norms

- 1. Stay engaged:** Remain morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue.
- 2. Experience discomfort:** Acknowledge that discomfort is inevitable, especially in dialogues about race. Make a commitment to bring issues into the open. It is not talking about these issues that creates divisiveness.
- 3. Speak your truth:** Be open about your thoughts and feelings and not just saying what you think others want to hear.
- 4. Expect and accept non-closure:** “Hang out in uncertainty” and don’t rush to quick solutions.

Adapted from Glenn Singleton’s *Courageous Conversations about Race*

Ground rules

- ▶ Let everyone participate by listening to and respecting diverse views and opinions
- ▶ Listen with an open mind
- ▶ Value learning from different input
- ▶ Stay open to new ways of doing things
- ▶ Treat others constructively and respectfully
- ▶ Respect the role of the facilitator to guide the group process
- ▶ Attack the problem, not the person
- ▶ Disagreement, frustrations, and differences of opinion are acknowledged, explored, and addressed



Community Conversations

Purpose + Need, Vision + Values

Presenter: Lisa Keohokalole Schauer

Strategic Communications

Initial Engagement Summary
Preliminary Survey Findings

March 8, 2021

Engagement + Outreach

- ▶ **Online Open House**
- ▶ **Interactive Survey**
- ▶ **Community Briefing Events**
- ▶ **Program Website**
- ▶ **Social Media**
 - Instagram
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - YouTube
- ▶ **Direct Stakeholder Engagement**
 - Organization Outreach
 - Multicultural Outreach
 - Public Comments
- ▶ **Group Input**
 - Executive Steering Group
 - Equity Advisory Group
 - Community Advisory Group
- ▶ **Listening Sessions**
 - Communities of Concern
 - Youth (ages 16 - 24)

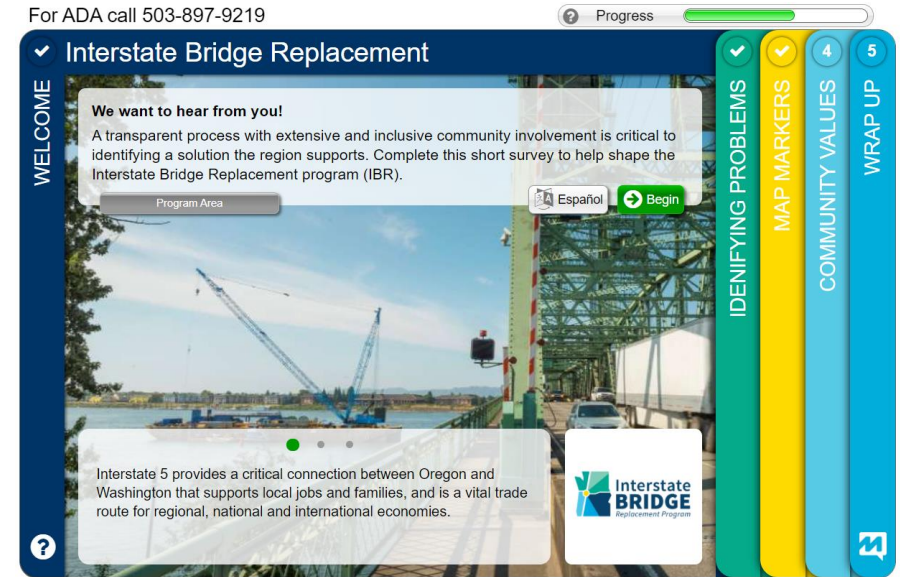
Outreach Tactics



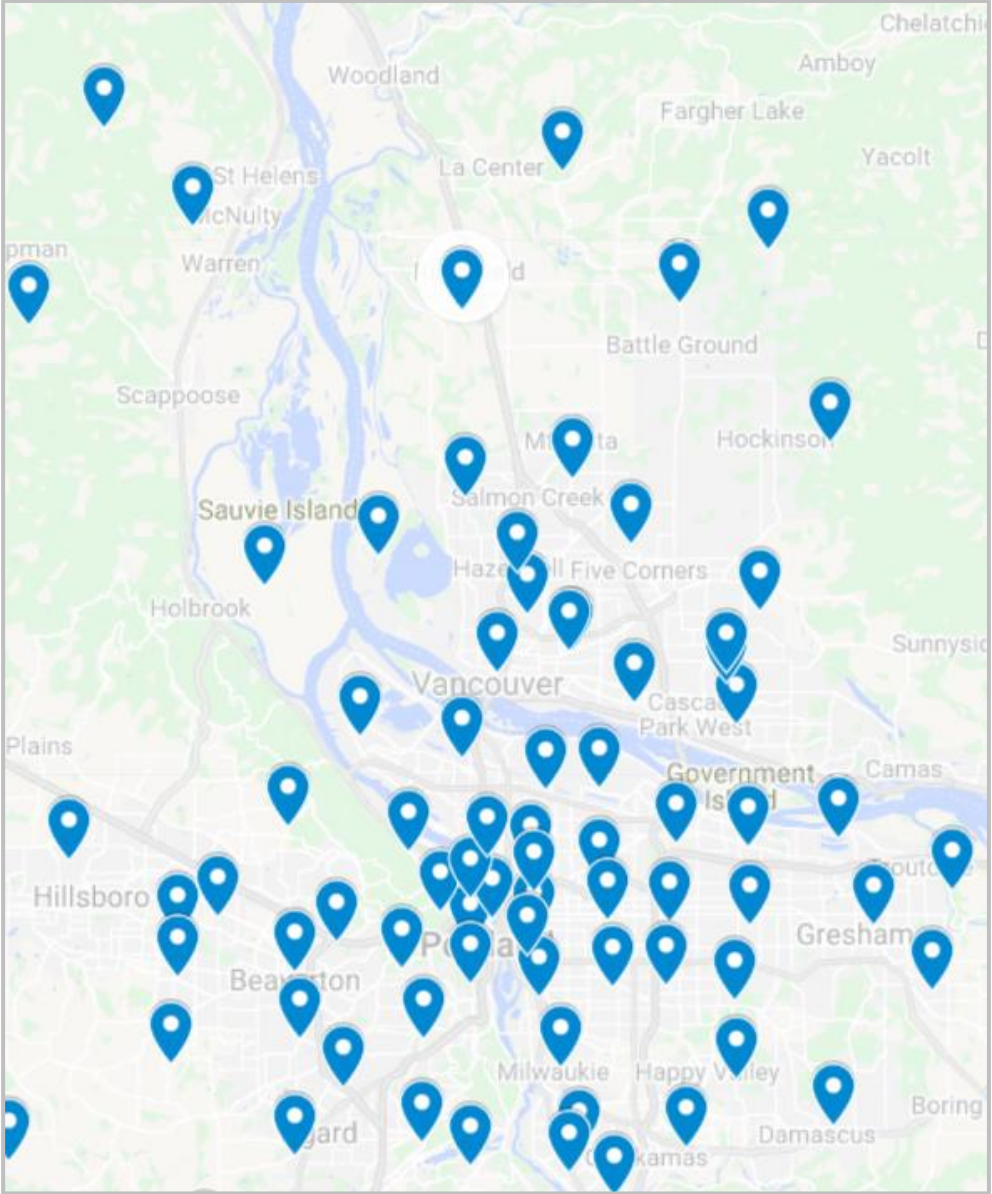
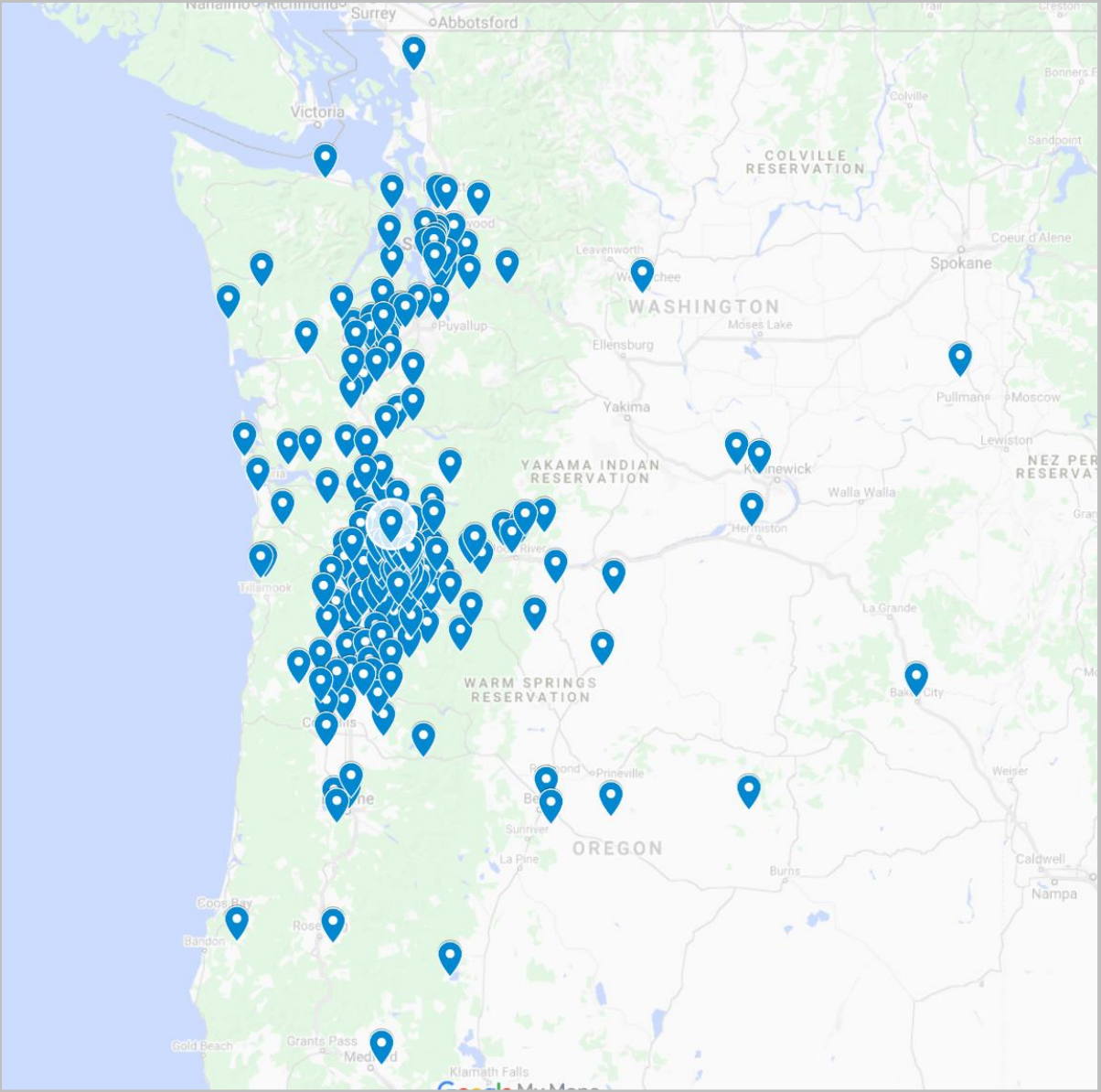
- ▶ **Social media** (Facebook) paid advertising and banners in seven languages
- ▶ Over 53,000 **direct mail postcards** sent to residents
- ▶ 7 advertisements in **print newspapers**
- ▶ 9 advertisements in **online newspapers and e-newsletters**
- ▶ Three-week long **digital campaign** in Columbian and Oregonian/OregonLive
- ▶ 2 **radio advertisements**, one in Spanish
- ▶ 1 **e-news alert**, 2 **e-newsletters** to over 7,000 subscribers
- ▶ Outreach to 331 **community-based organizations**
- ▶ Direct **telephone** outreach to individuals and organizations

Interactive Survey Participation

- ▶ **9,155** total survey participants
 - 78 Spanish survey participants
 - 58 Vietnamese survey participants
- ▶ **14,470** total comments received
 - 374 Spanish comments
 - 234 Vietnamese comments
- ▶ This survey is an opt-in survey that provides a window into a broad variety of perspectives from around the region.
- ▶ This survey is not...
 - Reflective of open-ended survey comments (final report will be published March 26)
 - Statistically significant within a margin of error
 - Demographically representative of the program area (race, ethnicity, income)
 - Inclusive of extensive input from the houseless community or those members of the community without internet access

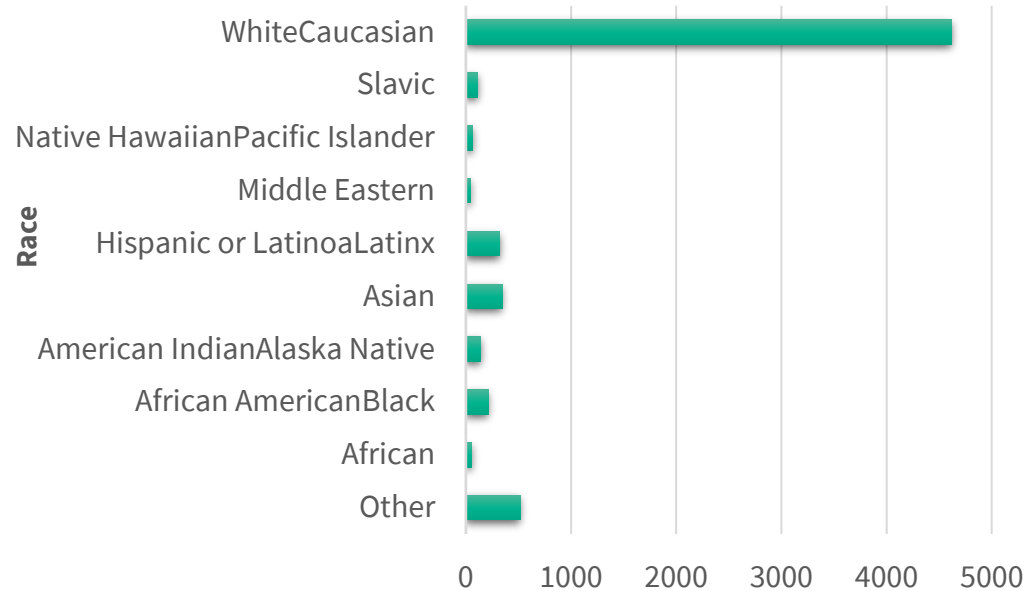


Participation Demographics: Zip Code

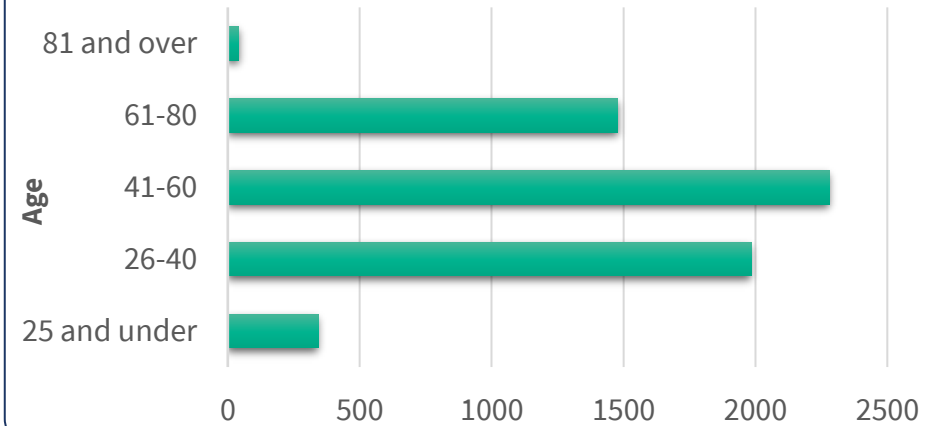


Participation Demographics: Age, Race, Income

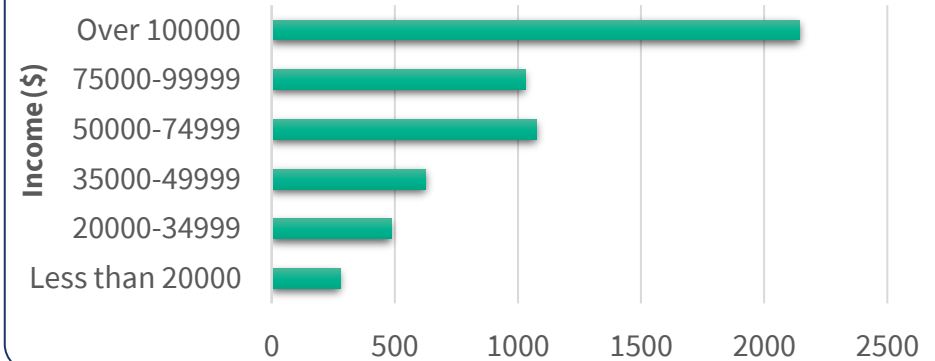
How would you describe your race?



What is your age?

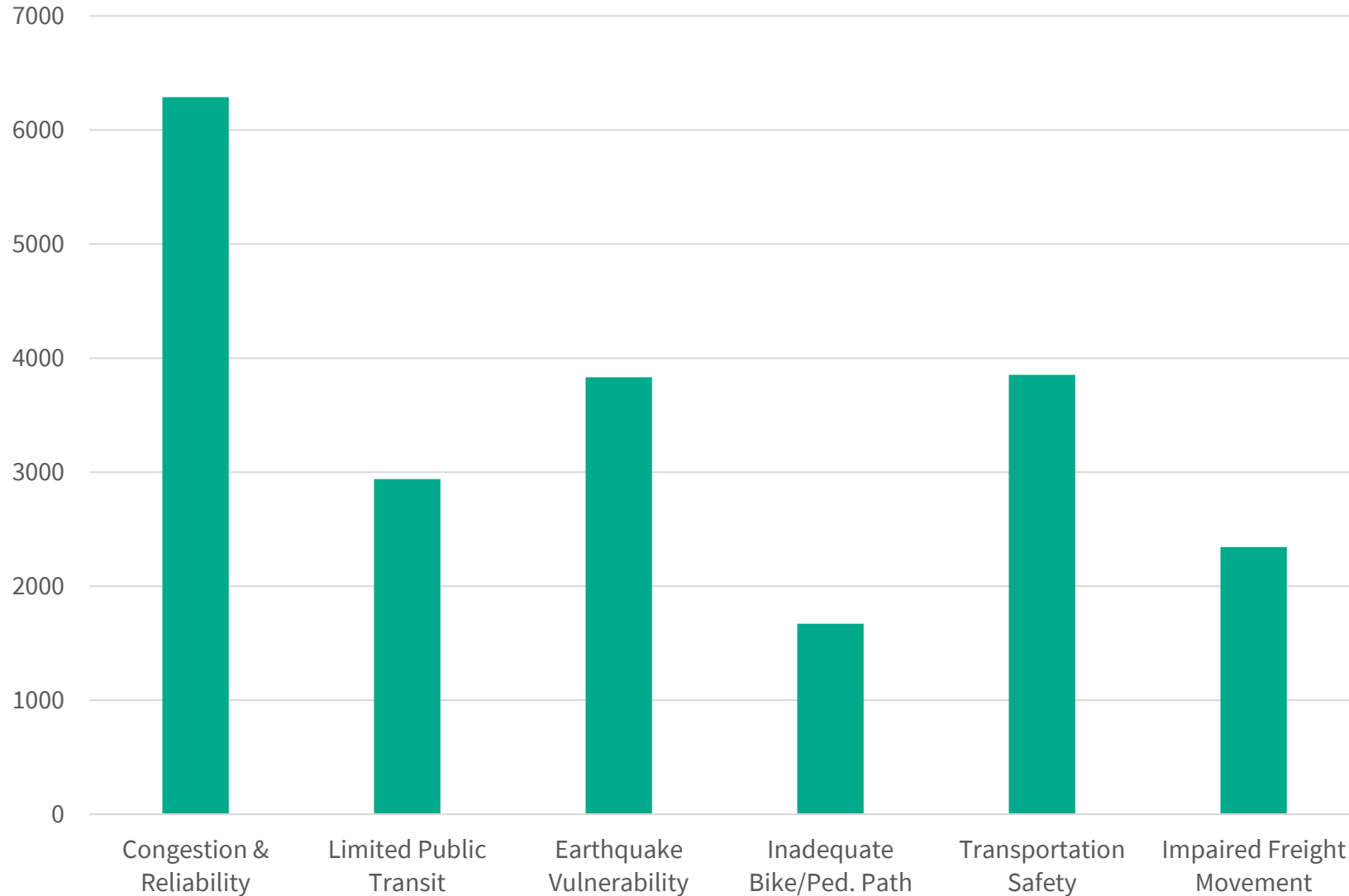


What is your household income?



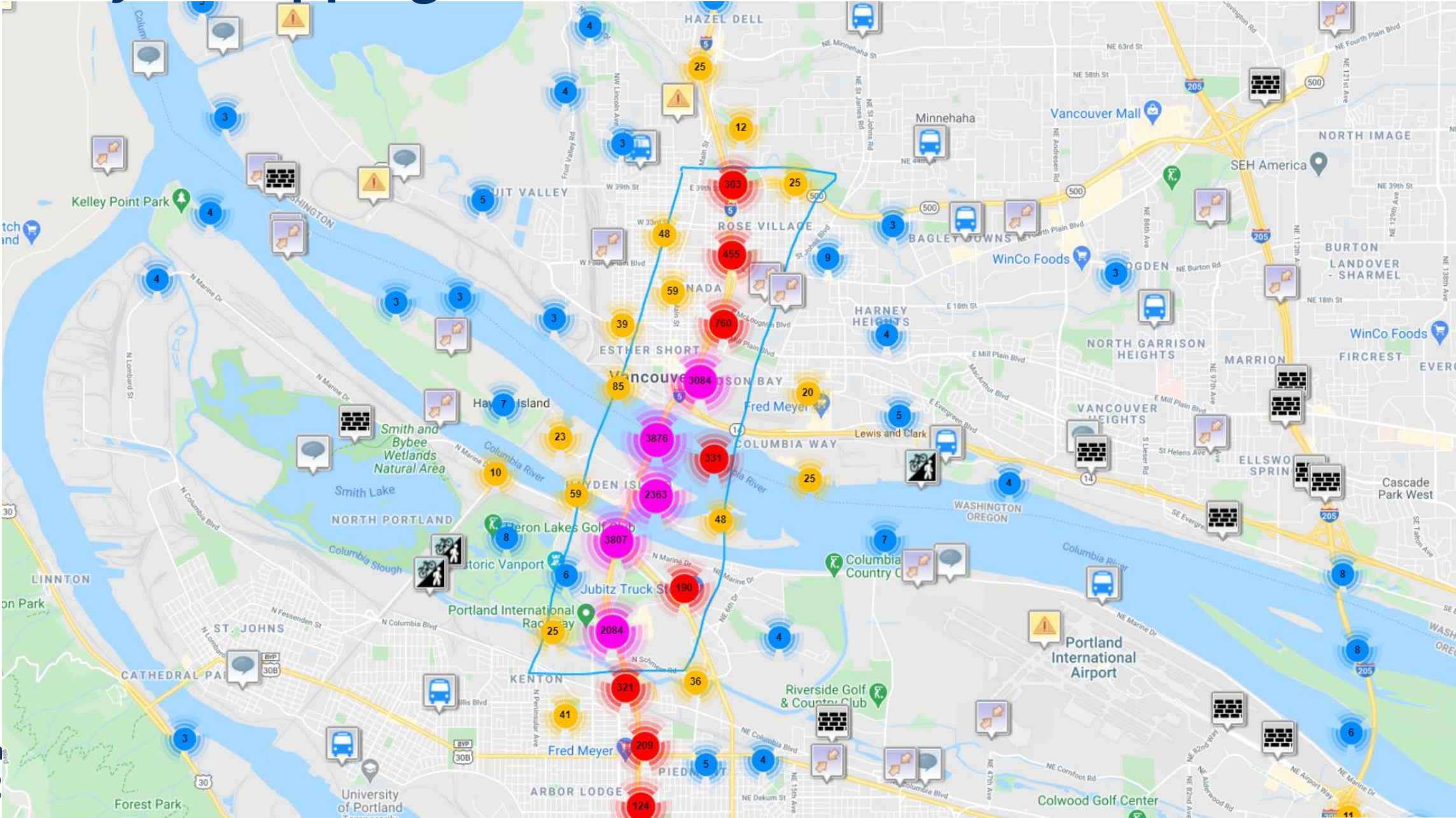
TOTAL PARTICIPANT: 9,291

Activity 1: Transportation Problems Priority Ranking (Top 3)



Activity 2: Mapping Problem Areas

Approx. 20,000 markers



Activity 3: Community Value Priorities (Top 2)

▶ Value: Commitment to Equity

- A strong focus on transportation for low-income travelers, people with disabilities and non-drivers
- Minimizing impacts on neighboring communities

▶ Value: Environment

- Protect fish, wildlife and associated habitats
- Protect water quality

▶ Value: Safety and Reliability

- Less time sitting in traffic (vehicle or transit)
- Make sure the bridge is earthquake-ready

Activity 3: Community Value Priorities (Top 2)

▶ Value: Cost & Funding

- Utilize previous planning work to maximize past investments and support efficient decision making
- Limit funding options (such as tolling) that will directly impact users

▶ Value: Transit & Multimodal

- Extend LRT across the bridge
- Provide public transit options that are direct routes between Portland and Vancouver/Clark County

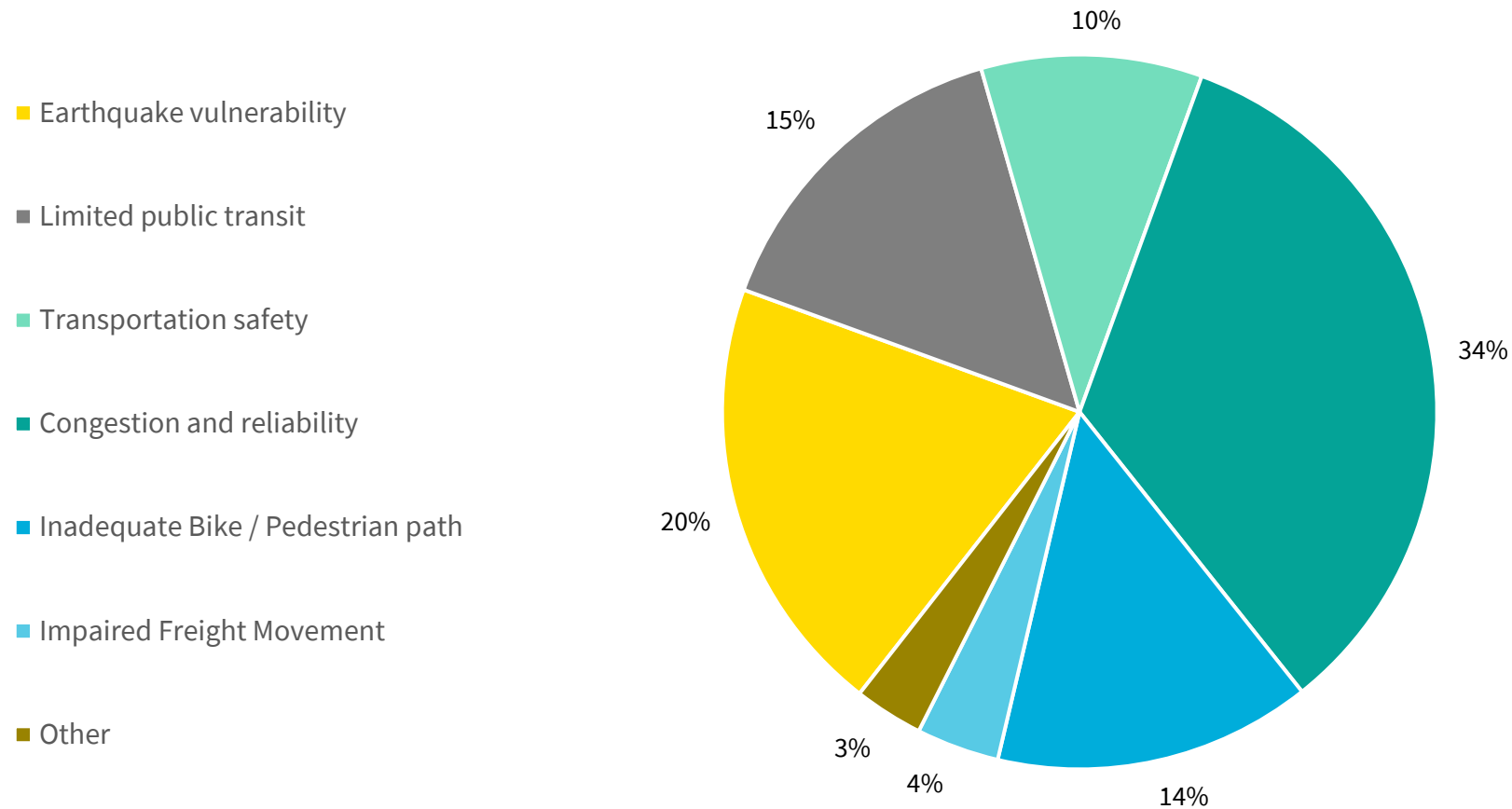
▶ Value: Economy & Community

- Prioritize future generations transportation needs and priorities
- Support the efficient movement of goods/services along the coast

Community Briefing Events: Purpose & Need feedback

195 TOTAL LIVE PARTICIPANTS

Q: What are the problems you experience with the Interstate Bridge?



Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

Themes:

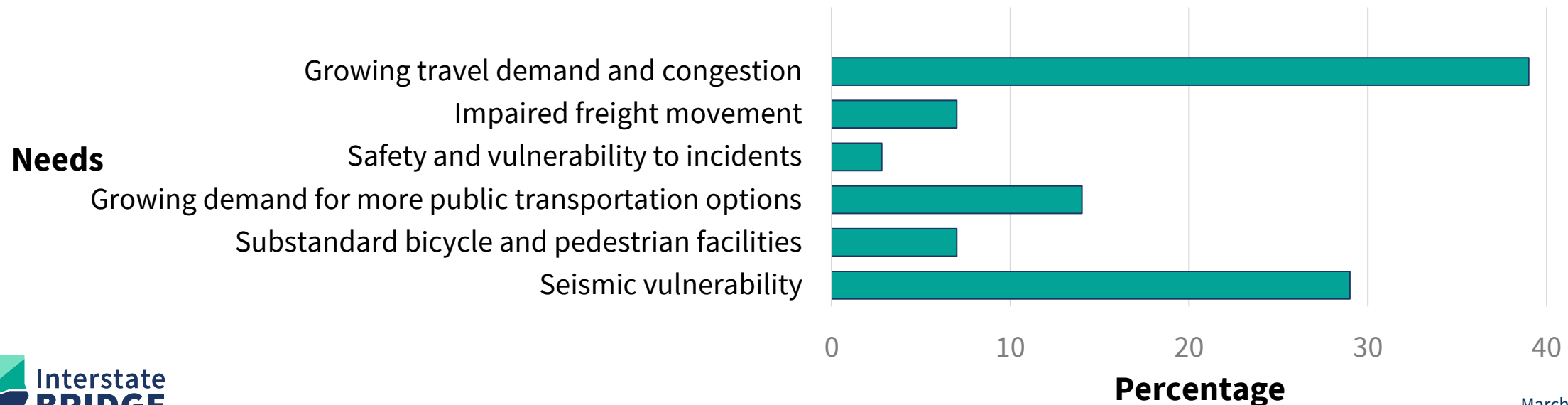
- ▶ Do not further harm communities who have been historically victimized in the corridor
- ▶ Focus on access to opportunities both created directly by the program (e.g. contracts and construction jobs) and resulting from the program's improvements (e.g. transit access to jobs)
- ▶ Collaborate with and empower diverse communities throughout the course of the program
- ▶ Always consider affordability and impacts on those with low income

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

Themes:

- ▶ Growing travel demand and congestion is the problem the program most needs to address
- ▶ Emphasis on designing a program that meets future community needs
- ▶ Seismic vulnerability is the second most critical problem in the program area

Percent of Respondents



Direct Stakeholder Engagement

▶ Community Organization Outreach

- **331 organizations** contacted via email
- **66 phone calls and emails** to follow-up (ongoing)

▶ Multicultural Outreach

- Liaisons engaged with community members in **8 different languages**
- **More than 300 surveys** completed through phone calls, translated social media, and translated paper materials

▶ Social Media Engagement:

- Urging others to take the survey through sharing and in comments
- Questions regarding program cost and funding sources
- Strong support for high-capacity transit mode as part of program

▶ Public Comments

- **146** total comments received from February 1 to March 1 (email, website form, online open house form)

Next Steps

▶ **March 2021**

- Listening Session with Communities of Concern & Youth
- Development of key takeaways
- Community Engagement Report

▶ **May 2021**

- Final Purpose & Need, Vision & Values

▶ **Summer 2021**

- Screening Criteria / Alternatives Development



Questions?

www.interstatebridge.org

Defining Equity for the IBR Program

Draft Equity definition

The Interstate Bridge Replacement program (IBR) defines Equity as both a *process* and an *outcome*.

Process Equity means centering and empowering the voices of communities who have historically been disenfranchised and excluded from decision-making processes in transportation projects, while providing resources to address barriers to meaningful participation.

Outcome Equity means ensuring access to the economic opportunities and transportation benefits created by the program while avoiding further harm to historically marginalized and underserved communities in the program area.

Draft Equity definition (cont.)

Applying this definition to the program includes a commitment to:

- Honoring the history of Indigenous peoples who have lived in the program area since time immemorial
- Maintaining transparency and accountability in program processes and decisions
- Acknowledging historic, present, and potential future inequities—including displacement and burdens related to transportation costs—and identifying strategies to address these inequities
- Proactively engaging members of the following communities:
 - BIPOC communities (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
 - People with disabilities
 - Communities with limited English proficiency (LEP)
 - Persons experiencing low income
 - Houseless individuals and families
 - Immigrants and refugees
 - Young people

Group Discussion

What do you like about this definition?

Can anything be refined so that it better guides the program towards equity?

Purpose & Need, Vision & Values Refresher

Purpose and Need Statement

Purpose

- ▶ Concisely identifies what the proposed action is intended to accomplish
- ▶ Stated broadly enough that more than one solution can be considered

Need

- ▶ Explains why the proposed action has been undertaken
- ▶ Identifies existing or expected future problems within a defined area

Why Community Vision and Values?

- ▶ Guide program development
- ▶ Foundation for developing criteria and performance measures to evaluate alternatives
 - *Criteria are lined up against each other to determine which alternative satisfies which criteria*
 - *For example: one alternative may do better than another with bike/pedestrian access. This allows the program to see which does what, to make informed choices.*

Using Purpose & Need in Alternatives Screening

Purpose & Need

- Pass/Fail evaluation criteria (example shown below)
- At minimum, reasonable alternatives must address the program’s problems

Early Screening Results		Increase vehicular capacity or decrease vehicular demand?	Improve transit performance?	Improve freight mobility	Improve safety and decrease vulnerability to incidents?	Improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility?	Reduce seismic risk of the I-5 Columbia River Crossing?	Overall
F = Fail P = Pass U = Undetermined – components were not dropped based upon this result								
RC-3	Replacement Bridge-Downstream/Mid-level	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
RC-4	Replacement Bridge-Upstream/Mid-level	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
RC-5	Replacement Bridge-Downstream/High-level	P	P	P	F	P	P	F
RC-6	Replacement Bridge-Upstream/High-level	P	P	P	F	P	P	F

Example screening results are from past planning work and are shown for illustration only.

Using Vision & Values in Alternatives Screening

Vision & Values

- Comparative evaluation criteria
- Quantitative (e.g., the number of businesses displaced)
- Qualitative (e.g., high/medium/low visual impacts)

Criteria	EC-1	EC-2	EC-3	No Action
Impacts to the natural, built and aesthetic environment				
Fish & Wildlife	M	M	M	L
Vegetation & Wetlands	L	L	L/M	L
Air Quality	L	L	L	L
Energy	L	L	L	L
Hazardous Materials	H	M	L	L

Example screening results are shown for illustration only.

Equity as a Critical Objective

Critical Objective: Equity

- ▶ Include equity as both an outcome and a process throughout the delivery of the program.
- ▶ Seek equitable distribution of transportation costs associated with the program.
- ▶ Strive for the fair distribution of benefits and adverse effects of the program for the region, communities, and neighborhoods adjacent to the program area.
- ▶ Consider historical impacts to black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) as well as economically vulnerable populations when determining equitable outcomes for the program.
- ▶ Engage diverse community groups to ensure program delivery reflects cultural context and area history through a celebration of diversity.
- ▶ Provide meaningful, fair opportunities for local, small, and growing businesses, including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, during procurement and contracting.
- ▶ Implement an anti-displacement strategy for disadvantaged communities that builds on existing community assets.

Infusing Equity into Purpose Need

Seismic vulnerability

Heading: “Seismic vulnerability increases risk of disrupted interstate travel”

- ▶ “The Interstate Bridge’s vulnerability to failure in an earthquake presents a risk of severe disruption to the region, particularly to those who depend on the bridge as their primary route, including residents that would be isolated on Hayden Island, as well as in emergency response and region recovery.”

Congestion & reliability

Heading: “Traffic congestion limits mobility and travel reliability while contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and inequity of transportation costs”

- ▶ “As affordable housing becomes scarcer, people experiencing low income have moved farther away from major job centers in the region, which lengthens distances traveled, increases time spent commuting to work or obtaining services, and introduces greater risks of job insecurity with less travel reliability.”
- ▶ “Inequity occurs as those experiencing low income more often have greater transportation costs compared to other travelers that can afford housing closer to job centers thereby reducing the time spent in congestion.”

Congestion & reliability, cont.

Recent demographic trends (callout box)

- ▶ Median gross rent has increased 35% in Portland and 31% in Multnomah County compared to 22% in Vancouver and 24% in Clark County between 2000 and 2019 (adjusted for inflation) (US Census 2000: 2015-19 ACS)
- ▶ The black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) population has grown 20% in Portland and 29% in Multnomah County compared to 60% in Vancouver and 62% in Clark County between 2000 and 2019 (US Census 2000: 2015-19 ACS)
- ▶ Median household income has increased 15% in Portland and 9% in Multnomah County in contrast to a decrease of 3% in Vancouver and flat growth in Clark County between 2000 and 2019 (US Census 2000: 2015-19 ACS)

“Vancouver has experienced an influx of new residents in recent years with a population growth of 19.3% since 2000. As the cost of living has escalated throughout the region, people have migrated further from Portland’s urban core in search of more affordable places to live.” --*Reside Vancouver: An Anti-Displacement Plan (City of Vancouver, 2019)*

Public transit

Heading: “Congestion reduces current public transit service reliability and limited infrastructure hinders efficient transit connectivity”

- ▶ “...those who rely most heavily on public transit, including individuals experiencing low-income, people with disabilities, people of color, young people, and older adults, face barriers to accessing living wage jobs, health care, education, and other essential services.
- ▶ “Growing congestion in the corridor reduces public transit service reliability and travel speed, which can discourage reliance on transit and increases overall transportation costs for people seeking more affordable housing and living wage jobs.”
- ▶ “Key transit infrastructure is needed to promote and encourage local, regional and state climate actions and to provide equitable access to transportation options.”

Safety

Heading: “Safety issues”

- ▶ “Other safety issues in the program area include increased traffic on local roads as travelers look for ways to avoid congestion, and active transportation and transit considerations.”
- ▶ “Inadequate walking/biking/rolling facilities is another safety issue within the program area.”

Bike/ped

Heading: “Inadequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities”

- ▶ “The bridge facilities are not accessible for all ages and abilities.”
- ▶ “Deficient pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the program area limit modal choice.”
- ▶ “Current constraints on walking, biking, and rolling limit access to public transit, increasing the burden of transportation costs...”

Small group discussions

1. Does this capture the **story** of what equity means in terms of the needs and goals for the IBR program?
2. Is there **anything more** we need to say to tell the story?
 - What additional information or data would we need to support that?
3. What would it look like if the story played out ***inequitably***?

Small Group Discussion

The EAG members are in breakout rooms. They will return to this webinar momentarily

If you would like to participate in an interactive activity, go to menti.com and enter the code 8266 4659

Report Out

Public Comment

Rules for Public Comment

The IBR Program is committed to ensuring the safety and comfort of our volunteer advisory group members. Those providing public comment must adhere to the following ground rules:

- ▶ Comments shall not be directed at individual members of the EAG.
- ▶ **Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated** and will result in individuals being muted and barred from providing future public comment at IBR program meetings.
- ▶ Comments are limited to **two minutes**. Commenters speaking beyond their allotted time may be muted regardless of the nature of the comments.

Comment Instructions

To make a verbal comment:

- ▶ If you have joined by Zoom, click “Raise Hand.”
- ▶ If you have joined by phone, press *9 to raise your hand.
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants. You will receive an “unmute” request. Please accept it.
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation.
- ▶ 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.

Comment Instructions

To submit comment after the meeting:

- Fill out comment form on program website or email comments to info@interstatebridge.org with “EAG Public Comment” in the subject line.
- All comments received after the meeting will be distributed to EAG members prior to their next meeting.
- Call **360-859-0494** (Washington), **503-897-9218** (Oregon), **888-503-6735** (toll-free) and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message.



Wrap up

- 3 takeaways
- EAG Meeting #4 March 29, 5:30-7:30pm



Thank you!