

EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP (EAG) MEETING #30

Date and Time: Monday, October 16, 2023, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 11

WELCOME

Dr. Roberta Hunte, EAG Facilitator, welcomed EAG members to the meeting, explained how to view closed captions, gave instructions for public input, and previewed the meeting agenda.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator, thanked everyone that was able to join the recent program area tour. The program is trying to get more people out on tours to understand the complexity of the program. The Washington Transportation Commission and Washington Transportation Legislative Committee recently took a tour. He also mentioned the importance of the tours since they allow the people to see the condition of the bridge.

Greg mentioned that there were congressional roundtables, and the White House infrastructure team had positive conversations with the community focused on IBR, which puts the program on Washington DC's radar. Greg attended the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) last week and noted getting a lot of interest from the members to participate in the IBR program.

Johnell Bell shared the conversation that he had with the Oregon State Building and Construction trades and their positive outlook, and their conversation about getting ready to participate in the draft SEIS that will be ready during mid-winter.

John asked - what kind of questions did you get from the Oregon building trades?

Johnell said that building trades want to have CWA/PLA agreements for some of the projects related to the larger IBR program. Greg mentioned that they showed strong support and wrote a letter of support for the federal grants. They are interested in workforce development and were informed by Greg that the program will be developing workforce programs that may include targeted hiring in zip codes of underserved communities.

PROGRAM TOUR UPDATES

Darcy from Workforce Southwest Washington comment: *The tour was very helpful and gave me a better idea of program impact. I learned a lot about the improvements that will be brought to the area. This is not just about a bridge, but neighborhood improvement and traffic are also so important. I highly recommend taking a tour to all of you.*

Shona Carter wasn't available for the tour but was wondering if upcoming tours will happen. Greg Johnson informed her that there will be upcoming IBR tours, and that she could fit in with a different group.

Albert Lee comment: *My biggest take away was the strong emphasis on multimodal transportation, having dedicated lanes for pedestrians and transportation, various points of viewing. It could be awesome if we could have something like the Highline on top. The tour was great.*

Vikki Nakashima comment: *I had a couple of "Aha!" moments. I asked questions about the number of injuries or deaths on the bridge and found out that there are not that many serious accidents because of how slow people need to go. The numbers are not terribly concerning. We might need to change the story of what it will mitigate. People in Washington feel like the traffic is an unsettling experience in Portland. There needs to be some revitalization of Hayden Island and Jantzen Beach.*

Greg Johnson mentioned that Kimco has a vision for the area Vikki mentioned. *This can be a positive impact and a smaller footprint with the ramps will help revitalization of Hayden Island and Jantzen Beach. The last fatality was over 5 years ago. He shared that fatalities on the bridge are rare. – a week ago today an accident occurred on the bridge that impacted traffic in Vancouver from 6am until 11am. Modernization of the bridge can help this type of situation.*

Nikki Chen comment: *The tour was necessary for me. I feel excited about the projects to come and find it necessary for future conversation and impact of projects on the community. I really appreciated the people on the bus and the diversity of all the participants.*

Sokho comment: *I appreciate the continued effort to visualize the bridge, the impacts of each location. The public education efforts to show the project and the development planning became clearer – it became clear what our role needs to be as we continue to work on equity as part of the project.*

CBO Mini grants update

Salomé Chimuku, the IBR Community Engagement Team Lead, reported on recent community engagement activities and the CBO Mini-grants awards. All the awardees of the mini grants were 501c3 organizations that will be collaborating with IBR staff, and they will serve as support for the draft SEIS. Salomé will share the list

of awardees with the team at large soon. Salomé also mentioned that the team attended 18 events, reaching more than 1,200 people, half of them from Equity Priority Communities (EPC).

Community Benefit Update

Shannon Singleton, the IBR Community Benefits Lead, shared updates about the Community Benefit Advisory Group (CBAG), which will be developed with extensive community involvement and is a cornerstone of how we are implementing equity. The CBAG will work with program staff to have potential benefits captured in contract specifications, and environmental documents, or some items that might be referred to be captured in a Project Labor (PLA) or Community Workforce Agreement (CWA). Shannon said that the program is looking to work cooperatively with program partners, and categorizing the community benefits along five dimensions: economic, environmental, social, health, and cultural. Shannon also clarified that IBR Community Benefits will not be a specific agreement just addressing community benefits, and it is not meant to reflect or be a PLA or a CWA. Shannon mentioned that the CBAG was created to also discuss the construction of the mega project, the alignment of community benefits with the Equity Framework, and the plan for mitigation for community benefit.

Sabrina Owens expressed her enthusiasm and support for the community benefits work, and asked about the communication channels between the CBAG, EAG and the community. Shannon suggested inviting a community member from CBAG to present in the future, and Jake reported sending an application to recruit interested participants from the EAG.

Shona Carter asked how to partner with other agencies for asset mapping. Shannon Singleton listed the program partners and examples of potential resources they could bring. Greg Johnson highlighted the insulation program that is done by Clark Public Utilities, which helps reduce noise levels in houses, as an example of possible partnerships for the program. Johnell thanked everyone for the significant progress and milestones achieved thus far and invited more community-based organizations to join the asset mapping efforts.

Equity Framework Accountability

Jake Warr, the IBR Equity Lead, gave an update on the Equity Framework and how it is being implemented in different disciplines within the program. He shared some feedback from the internal equity council and the equity accountability worksheets that program teams completed for last quarter:

- Translating the website into eight languages, which were selected based on census data
- Providing ADA accessibility and ASL interpretation for documents and meetings
- Developing a DBE plan to support small businesses and meet the aspirational goal
- Analysis of benefits and impacts to equity priority communities related to the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative

- Launching the equity and climate council to integrate equity and climate objectives
- Initiating the CBAG

Jake asked the members to reflect on how this aligns with their vision and expectations for the equity framework and to provide any feedback or recommendations they have.

Q&A

Vikki asked about the Russian language and the DBE definition for construction trades. Jake explained that DBE federal requirement is 51% or more ownership by a woman or a person of color. Johnell and Aidan added that there are other designations and opportunities for firms that do not fit the federal definition of minority.

Albert: How are the languages being translated and at what reading level are the translations done? Has there been consideration of turning materials into plain language to make sure that is accessible?

Salomé talked about the reading level of the materials in English and Spanish, which is at the seventh-grade level. She explained that the equity team works with local translators to make sure people understand the context. Salomé proceeded to explain: *We are very careful and look for a human eye translation to make it as accurate as possible. The materials are translated by an actual person, we take a lot of consideration in the translation of the materials and the information. We plan the community engagement work to make sure that the fact sheets are .1 understandable, 2. at the appropriate reading level, and 3. can be retained and passed along by someone who reads them in a different language.*

Sabrina Owens-Wilson shared that she would like to see how folks are using the equity framework and the lead up to their engagement on the EAG

Jake explained that the framework is being updated based on the feedback from the tribes and the lessons learned from the field. He said that the draft will be shared with the EAG next month for comments. Sabrina asked what areas of the framework are being updated, and Jake mentioned the KPIs, and the equity lens are being updated as well. Dr. Roberta Hunte suggested documenting the work that is being done, since it is unique and innovative.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment

MEETING EVALUATION POLL

 Polls — □ ×

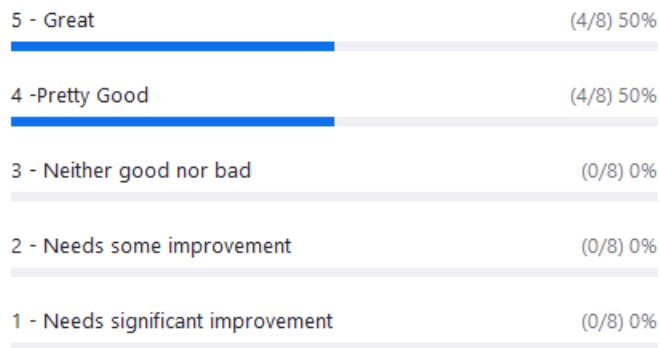
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EAG Survey

Poll ended | 1 question | 8 of 16 (50%) participated

1. How would you rate tonight's meeting, on a scale of 1-5 (Single Choice) *

8/8 (100%) answered



 [Share Results](#)

ADJOURN

- Next EAG meeting: November 20, 2023, 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Following EAG meeting: December 18, 2023

ATTENDEES

| Attendees | Organization/Affiliation |
|--------------------------|---|
| EAG Members | |
| John Gardner | TriMet |
| Aidan Gronauer (they/he) | WSDOT |
| Sebrina Owens-Wilson | Metro |
| Shona Carter | Community member |
| Vicki Nakashima | Community member |
| Sokho Eath | IRCO |
| Jennifer Campos | SW Washington Regional Transportation Council |
| Nicole Chen | City of Vancouver |
| Barbara Alexander | Port of Portland |
| Albert Lee | NAACP Portland |
| IBR Staff | |
| Greg Johnson | Program Administrator |
| Jake Warr | Equity Lead |
| Dr. Roberta Hunte | Facilitator |
| Johnell Bell | Principal Equity Officer |
| Emilee Thomas Peralta | Equity Team |
| Salomé Chimuku | Equity Team |
| Yemaya Hall-Ruiz | Equity Team |

| Attendees | Organization/Affiliation |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Shannon Singleton | Equity Team |
| Lucy Hamer | Equity Team |
| Brent Hamlin | Tech Support |

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

A recording of the meeting is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ilkx38N_Sc

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: <https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/eag-october-16-2023-meeting/>