



Interstate
BRIDGE
Replacement Program



Equity Advisory Group

July 19, 2021

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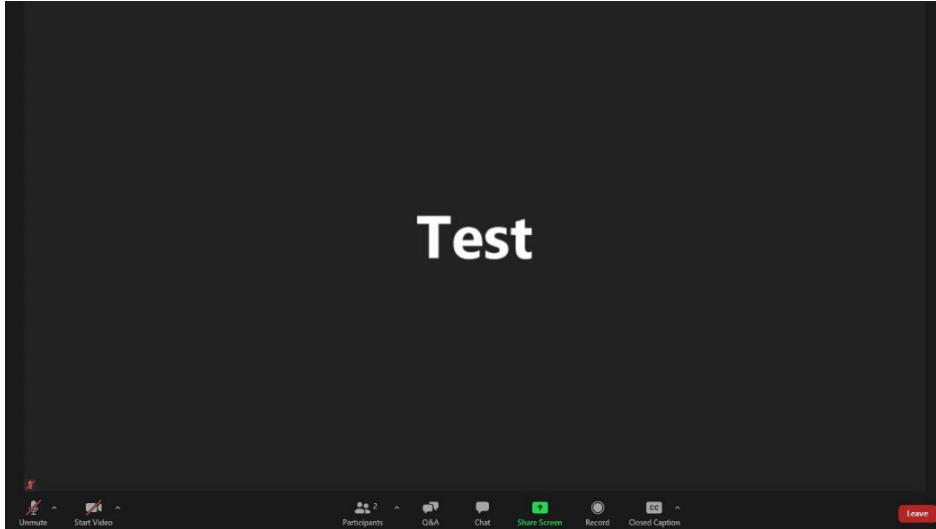
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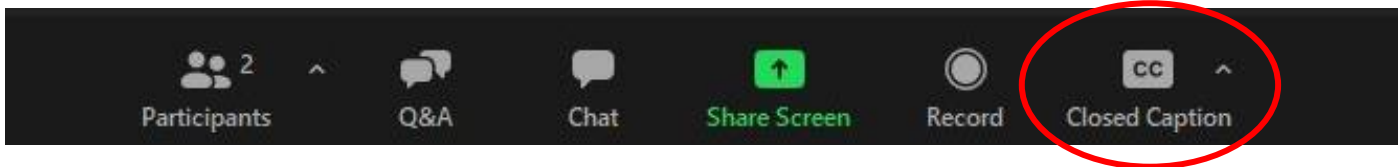
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Webinar Participation Tips

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 with “EAG Public Comment” in the subject line
 - Call 888-503-6735 and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message



Today's agenda

- ▶ Bridge Stories video
- ▶ Program Administrator Update
- ▶ Community Engagement Update
- ▶ Design Options & Screening Criteria: What, How, & Why
- ▶ Equity Framework Update
- ▶ Equity Lens Guiding Questions
- ▶ Public comment
- ▶ Close out

IBR Bridge Stories



Program Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

Executive Steering Group

July 15 Meeting Recap

- ▶ Shared and discussed the process for developing the **Climate Framework** and how climate goals will be applied in various components of the program.
- ▶ Reviewed the **CAG Community Values and Priorities** document including the purpose of the document and process for getting consensus on it.
- ▶ Discussed **iterative progress on the IBR program**, including the work plan to achieve program targets by Spring 2022, and the process for identify and developing screening criteria, design options, performance measures, and program outcomes.

Community Advisory Group

- ▶ Design Options were introduced
- ▶ Screening Criteria and Performance Measures were introduced.
- ▶ Co-Chairs will be engaging CAG members 1:1 to hear individual feedback on their experience and to make sure their voices are being heard by the program.
- ▶ Next meeting is August 5th: will have Climate Framework and Equity Framework introduced.



Community Engagement Update

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, Strategic Communications

Community Values & Priorities

- ▶ **Process to reach Community Advisory Group (CAG) consensus:**
 - Draft Community Values & Priorities developed using feedback from community engagement activities, including:
 - *Community Listening Sessions*
 - *Survey feedback*
 - *CAG meeting feedback, including breakout sessions and group discussion*
 - *Individual CAG member meeting feedback*
 - Consensus reached on June 3

Community Values and Priorities: Themes

- ▶ Community values and priorities will be used to develop screening criteria and performance measures:
 - Center **equity**
 - Advance opportunities to reduce impacts from and improve resiliency to global **climate change**.
 - Ensure availability of **transportation choices**.
 - Create opportunities for **economic empowerment**
 - **Cost effectiveness** & fiscal responsibility
 - **Congestion** impacts all users

Community Values and Priorities Cont.

- **Natural, cultural, and historic resources** should be protected and enhanced.
- **Cooperation** between bi-state program partners
- Meaningful, equitable and transparent **community engagement**.

CAG Community Values and Priorities

▶ Shapes Program Outcomes

- Center equity in the program's process and outcomes
- Improve resiliency to climate change
- Foster leadership and cooperation between bi-state partners
- Provide meaningful, equitable and transparent community engagement.

▶ Identifies Performance Measures

- Provide all modes to increase capacity
- Contribute to economic empowerment

▶ Defines Screening Criteria

- Reduce congestion
- Provide access to and ensure availability of transportation choices
- Protect and enhance natural resources

Community Listening Sessions

- ▶ 6 Listening Sessions, April – June 2021
 - Multimodal Commuter
 - Hayden Island/Marine Drive
 - Freight Movement
 - Downtown Vancouver
 - Active Transportation
 - Sustainability and Climate

- ▶ 217 total participants

Community Listening Sessions

► What we heard

- Reducing congestion is a top priority.
- Improve active transportation and public transit options, while ensuring safe and reliable access in an equitable manner.
- Unimpaired freight movement through the I-5 corridor supports local, regional, and national community needs.
- Embody sustainability best practices and act as example other transportation projects will aspire to emulate.
- Build a bridge that will help unite the community while minimizing negative impacts.

Upcoming Community Listening Sessions

▶ 9 Listening Sessions, July – August 2021

- People with Disabilities; August 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- BIPOC; August 9 & 11, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Houseless individuals and families; August 17, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Older Adults; August 19, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Language-specific; August 23-31, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
 - *Chinese, Somali, Russian/Ukrainian, Vietnamese*



Design Options & Screening Criteria: What, How, & Why

Alex Prentiss, Cross-Discipline Coordination Lead

Ryan LeProwse, Transportation Planning Manager

IBR Program Timeline



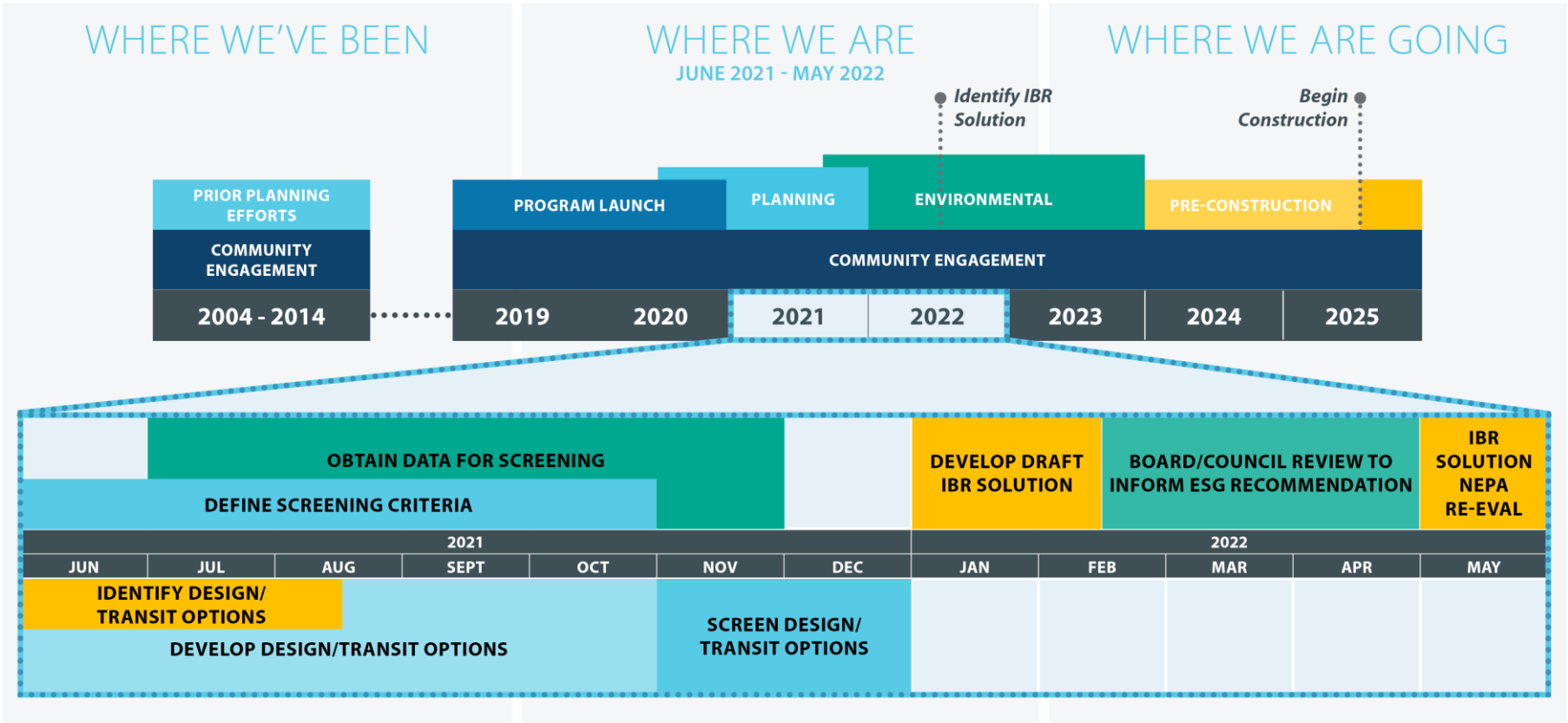
IBR ‘North Star’ Targets:

- ▶ One integrated program that includes:
 - a new river crossing over the Columbia River
 - high-capacity transit,
 - interchange improvements, and
 - active transportation improvements
- ▶ Identify and advance a single IBR alternative by end of 2021
- ▶ NEPA with a goal to achieve path 2 or 3 (Supplemental EIS)
- ▶ Evaluate HCT options
- ▶ Replace North Portland Harbor I-5 Bridge
- ▶ Begin construction no later than 2025

▶ Next: How we will get there...



IBR Program Timeline





Equity Framework Update

Chris Lepe, IBR Equity Panel

Program Equity Definition
(What does 'equity' mean in the context of IBR?)

Equity Objectives
(What do we want to achieve?)

Equity Framework

Measures of Success
(What do we want to measure, how will we measure it?)

Put into action
(Community engagement, design, construction specifications, etc.)

Equity Framework Development Schedule

July

- Confirm Framework outline
- 1st Draft of Screening Criteria
- 1st Draft of Equity Lens

August

- Refine Screening Criteria
- Refine/Approve Equity Lens
- 1st Draft Equity Framework

September

- Finalize Screening Criteria
- 2nd Draft Equity Framework

October

- 1st Draft Performance Measures
- Final Draft/Vote Equity Framework

Equity Framework Outline

I. Context/background:

- Introduction/Purpose
- Historic Context
- Program Purpose & Description, including Vision & Principles
- Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going



Equity Framework Outline

II. Operationalizing Equity:

- Define Equity & Equitable Goals/Outcomes and Process
- Establish high-level results/objectives
- Indicators (will inform performance measures)
- Strategies (will inform screening criteria)
- Actions & Activities



Equity Framework Outline

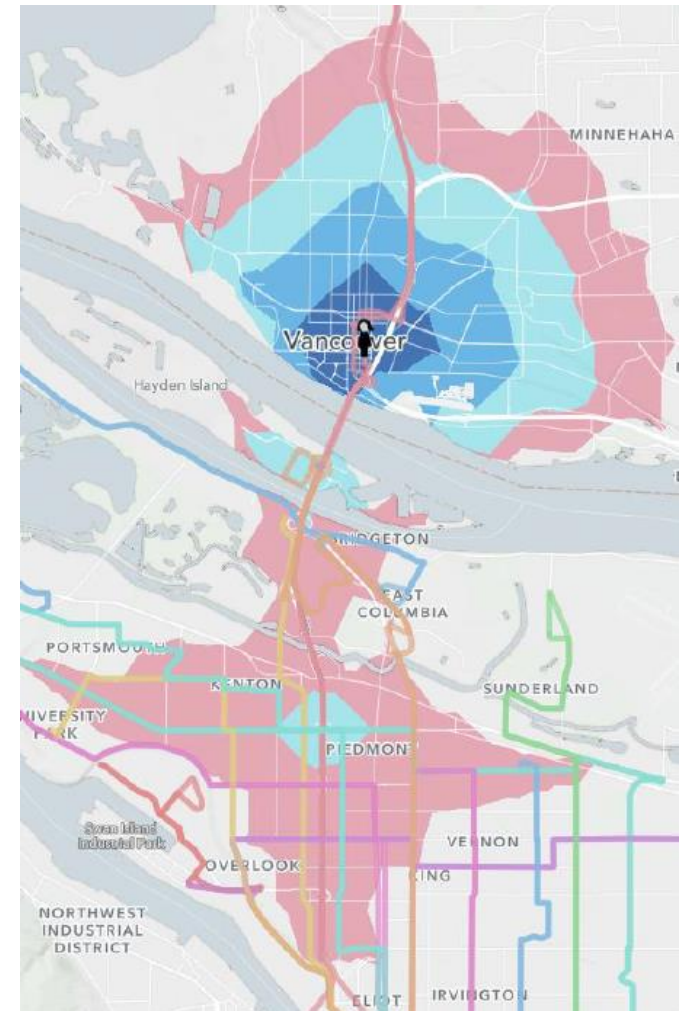
III. Framework Products:

- A. Equity Lens
- B. Screening Criteria
- C. Equity Index
- D. Performance Measures
- E. Mitigation and equity enhancement commitments
- F. Other

We are here

IV. Equity Glossary

V. Authors and Contributors





Developing an IBR Equity Lens

Johnell Bell, Principal Equity Officer

IBR Equity Lens: What is it? Why have it?

- **Inform the program's approach to achieving equitable outcomes**
 - Embedding equity throughout ongoing decision making and actions by IBR program
 - *When key decision points will be made over the arch of the process*
- **Lens questions guides IBR program and teams towards equitable processes & outcomes**

IBR Equity Lens: What is it? Why have it?

- The lens is explicit in drawing attention to the inclusion of and implications for historically marginalized communities
- An equity lens will not tell you what actions to take. Rather, the lens helps you discuss and reflect on whether (and how) the action and decision-making processes advance equity.

“Big picture” questions

- What **decision** is being made?
- **Who** is at the table?
- **How** are decisions being made?
- What **assumptions** are at the foundation of the issue?
- What is the likely **impact**?

Source: United Way of Santa Cruz County

Applying an “equity lens”



Formal

“A transformative quality improvement tool used to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs.”

–Multnomah County Equity & Empowerment Lens



Informal

A general mindset: Are we considering how communities of concern might be impacted? How so?

IBR Program Teams

- **Media & Public Involvement** - Public Involvement, Strategic Communications, etc
- **Environmental** - Natural Resources, Environmental Justice, Social/Land Use/ Economics, Air Quality/GHG/Energy, etc.
- **Transportation/Planning** - Traffic Analysis, Travel Demand Modeling, Bike/Pedestrian, Freight, GIS
- **Design Engineering** - Roadway, Utilities, Urban Design, etc
- **Structures** - Bridge Architect, Geotechnical, etc
- **Transit** - HCT Planning & Design, Park & Ride/Station Design, etc
- **Financial** - Funding & Grants, Transit Partnerships, etc
- **Project Controls** - Constructability/Cost Estimating, etc

IBR Equity Objectives

Mobility & Accessibility

Improve mobility, accessibility, and connectivity in the program area, with a particular focus on the needs of lower income travelers, people with disabilities, and communities who experience transportation barriers related to the location of affordable housing options.

Physical Design

Integrate equity into the physical design elements of the program.

Community Benefits

Find opportunities for and implement local community improvements, in addition to required mitigations.

Economic opportunity

Ensure that economic opportunities generated by the program, including contracting and workforce development, substantially benefit minority and women owned firms, workers of color, workers with disabilities, and young people.

Decision-making processes

Meaningfully share access, participation, influence, and decision-making power with historically marginalized communities throughout the course of the program.

Avoiding further harm

Avoid disproportionate impacts on communities of concern while implementing substantial mitigations for any unavoidable, but proportional, impacts.

Draft IBR Equity Lens

Discussion

- **In small groups answer the following:**
 - What do you like about the questions?
 - What improvements would you like made to the questions? What's missing?
 - How would you like to see the Equity Lens used?



Small Group Discussion

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

Public comment

Comment Instructions

To make a verbal comment:

- ▶ To make a live comment via phone, dial: 669 900 6833
 - ▶ Meeting ID: 986 0940 5983
 - ▶ Passcode: 701376
- ▶ Dial *9 to raise your hand
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- ▶ Dial *6 to unmute yourself
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation.
- ▶ Commenters will be given 2 minutes to speak.

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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To submit comment after the meeting:



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



- ▶ Call **888-503-6735** and state “EAG Public Comment” in your message.
- ▶ Written comments need to explicitly say “**EAG Public Comment**” in the subject line or in the body of the message for them to be identified and distributed to EAG members.
- ▶ 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

- Takeaways
- Meeting evaluation
- Next meeting: Monday August 16, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Thank you!