

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY GROUP (CBAG)

### MEETING #6

Date and Time: Thursday, February 22, 2024 / 9:30 – 11:30am

Location: Hybrid (In-person and Zoom Meeting) and [YouTube livestream](#)

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 18

### OUTCOMES

- CBAG members will review, edit, and confirm revisions made to community benefits recommendations in the “Avoid Further Harm” category and use modified consensus for this final set of priority recommendations.

### WELCOME

Bree Nicoletto and Emilee Thomas-Peralta, IBR equity team and co-facilitators, opened the February 2024 CBAG meeting by welcoming all attendees.

Nicoletto reviewed instructions to access closed captioning, meeting participation tips, ASL interpretation reminders, public input instructions, and CBAG agreements.

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator, greeted and thanked everyone for their participation.

City of Portland Commissioner Mingus Mapps and City of Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle, CBAG co-conveners, also welcomed the group and provided opening remarks.

Nicoletto proceeded by providing an overview of the meeting's agenda. She asked CBAG members to share their names, organizational affiliation or at-large status, and pronouns if they wished. She added a check-in question by asking each participant to share what activities they are looking forward to doing in the spring.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicoletto guided the group on how to proceed with public comments. She confirmed there was a public comment received before the meeting and included in the packet. No one was signed up to provide public comment during the meeting. She then explained the options for submitting comments post-meeting.

### PROGRAM UPDATE

Administrator Johnson opened the section with an update on the program's activities over the past month. He highlighted a significant visit from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who spent time on the

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bridge and in the program office. This visit, which included interactions with some CBAG members, underscored the importance of firsthand experiences in understanding the challenges the program aims to overcome. Buttigieg showed a keen interest in the program's efforts surrounding equity and community benefits, leading to a robust conversation.

Johnson also highlighted a visit from Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt, who toured the bridge and discussed the program's progress. These visits infused momentum and energy into the program.

Additionally, Johnson shared updates on the program's community engagement efforts, including an Equity Roundtable that explored the concept of equity and its implications for communities on both sides of the river. Additionally, the program hosted a Small Business Roundtable and collaborated with Apex and the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) to hold an event and presentation in support of small and disadvantaged business enterprises. A program area tour was provided to the Association of General Contractors, with plans for more tours in the future. Continuing its outreach, the program engaged with the Vancouver Innovation, Technology, and Art (VITA) school and conducted a Youth Press conference and tour. He mentioned that the Transportation Commissions formed the bi-state tolling subcommittee, which will host its first meeting on February 23.

Johnson announced the launch of the program's new [Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement \(SEIS\) webpage](#). This online space aims to encourage public participation, allowing community members to review the document when it's available and offer feedback to the program.

## DISCUSS AND CONFIRM CBAG RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AVOID FURTHER HARM CATEGORY

Thomas-Peralta, co-facilitator, offered a brief review of the January meeting process for confirming recommendations. The team distributed two slides featuring community benefits recommendations under the "Avoid Further Harm" category, inviting member feedback. After integrating this feedback into the recommendations, they were circulated back to members via email for confirmation using a 'Fist to Five' modified consensus survey. Despite a higher than usual survey response rate, the team opted to ensure every member had the chance to provide feedback and confirm the updated recommendations during this meeting.

### **Discussion and confirmation on the first slide of Avoid Further Harm recommendations**

Thomas-Peralta presented the original and updated language for "Avoid Further Harm" recommendations, leading to a discussion among CBAG members. Concerns and suggestions were raised regarding definitions, construction impact prioritization, clarity in recommendations, monitoring feasibility, and addressing homelessness issues. Members proposed changes to include additional measures, collaboration with the City of Portland, and addressing displacement concerns. The program assured ongoing efforts to define its footprint, mitigate impacts, and collaborate with communities. The discussion also touched on the responsibility for certain matters, organizational clarity, and revising recommendations. Nicolello summarized the revisions as follows:

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- Avoid Further Harm — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards [PLEASE NOTE: The first and third bullet points in the original language were consolidated into one recommendation in the final language in the first bullet.]
  - Establish systems for continuous monitoring of noise, dust, vibration, and air quality during program construction to mitigate impacts to homes, businesses, and other properties. Pre-construction conditions will be measured to use as a baseline for monitoring
  - Provide a publicly accessible community benefits dashboard showing progress on all community benefits, proposals and projects
  - Require contractors to arrange off street parking for their site employees where feasible and reasonable
  - Limit closures of sidewalks, bike lanes and bus lanes near construction sites to minimize impacts on non-motorized transit. Prioritize bus and truck flow
  - Create a process to monitor volume and speeds on local streets within the program area. When warranted for local traffic code, install speed bumps or tables to address safety during construction

Nicolello asked members to participate in the First to Five and members voted with majority support to move the recommendations forward.

### **Discussion and confirmation on the second slide of Avoid Further Harm recommendations**

Thomas-Peralta presented original and updated recommendations for the second slide of "Avoid Further Harm." CBAG members discussed various aspects, including incorporating electric or low-emission standards for contractors, adding clarity to definitions, and addressing concerns about the potential unintended consequences of mitigation efforts. The discussion covered topics such as the installation of electric lines, retrofitting diesel construction vehicles, and the use of renewable diesel as an alternative. Members expressed concerns about potential shifts in language affecting small businesses, historical context, and the need for ongoing ownership and maintenance of charging stations. Nicolello summarized the revisions made to this slide (slide 20) as follows:

- Avoid Further Harm — all elements below will reflect leading and best practices and accommodate any local context and standards
  - Establish challenging electric vehicle or low emissions requirements as part of contract documents; explore opportunities for renewable diesel and incentives
  - Incentivize the installation of electric charging stations in the construction zone for contractor use to meet EV requirements. These charging stations are replaced so that they may become convenient public facilities after construction is complete and ongoing operations and ownership is determined
  - Facilitate bringing resources to the table to maintain and operate the installation of electric lines in advance of the start of construction to avoid future disruption for charging stations

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- Work with highly impacted residents to determine mitigations during construction, such as installation of sound and dust proof windows in a timely fashion before construction begins, hotel vouchers during the noisiest overnight operations of certain noise levels are exceeded, etc.
- Retrofit diesel construction vehicles, or require use of renewable diesel where feasible and reasonable, to curb air pollution prior to the start of construction

Nicolello asked members to participate in the Fist to Five and members voted with majority support to move the recommendations forward.

The group ran out of time to cover the last agenda topics related to Tribal government consultation and Section 106 and small group discussion on potential community benefits related to workforce equity and economic opportunities.

## CLOSING REMARKS

In conclusion, Administrator Johnson acknowledged the excellence of the recommendations and commended the members for their hard work and dedication to community benefits.

## ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization
<b>CBAG Members</b>	
Greg Johnson	Program Administrator
Mingus Mapps	City of Portland Commissioner
Anne McEnery-Ogle	City of Vancouver Mayor
Darcy Hoffman	Workforce SW Washington
Scott McCallum	WA School for the Blind
Peter Fels	Alliance for Community Engagement
Vicki Nakashima	Equity Advisory Group Representative
Michael Strahs	Kimco Realty
Corky Collier	Columbia Corridor Association
Marcus Mundy	Coalition for Communities of Color
Carley Francis	WSDOT
Rian Windsheimer	ODOT
Tom Hickey	Community Advisory Group Representative
Walter Valenta	Community at large
Jasmine Tolbert	YWCA Clark County
Farleigh Winters	LSW Architects
Kelly Haines	Worksystems, Inc.
Scott Sharba	Vancouver Housing Authority

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Ben Jacobsen	Jane’s Forum
Jayne Haygood	Vancouver’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Holly Williams	Community at large
Nicole Davison Leon	Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber

Attendees	Organization
<b>IBR Staff</b>	
Emilee Thomas-Peralta	Equity Team
Bree Nicoletto	Equity Team
Eric Trinh	Equity Team
Lucy Hamer	Equity Team
Yemaya Hall-Ruiz	Equity Team
Salome Chimuku	Community Engagement Team
Fabiola Casas	Equity Team
Fabián Hidalgo Guerrero	Community Engagement Team
Brenda Siragusa	IBR Staff
Paris Moore	Community Engagement Team
Monika Johnson	IBR staff
Hayli Reff	Cultural Resources Program Manager
Kassie Rippee	Tribal Liaison
Shanrika McClain	Procurement Team
Zander Arnold	Technical Support

## Additional Participants

18 members of the public, partner agency staff, and the IBR team viewed the meeting via the YouTube livestream during the meeting.

## MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

### Meeting Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w31Uyw0hXEE>

### Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: <https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cbag-meeting-february-22-2024/>