

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #33

Date and Time: Thursday, February 8th, 2024 / 4:00 – 6:00pm

Location: Zoom Meeting and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 30

OUTCOMES

- Receive updates on recent program activities as well as river navigation considerations and permit process.
- Learn about the communications approaches for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) public comment period and offer input.
- Provide input to the IBR Design Team on the Hayden Island Transit Station to help ensure community perspectives are considered as station details are developed.

WELCOME & PROGRAM UPDATE

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, CAG co-facilitator, opened the meeting with instructions for accessibility features and a review of the agenda. CAG co-chairs, Ed Washington and Lynn Valenter, welcomed attendees and initiated introductions. A poll was conducted to gather input on timing of public comment session. The majority, 50%, of respondents to the poll believe that allowing public comments at both the beginning and the end of the CAG meetings is most effective, while 29% prefer comments at the end and 21% at the beginning. IBR Assistant Program Administrator Ray Mabey expressed gratitude to CAG members, highlighted recent engagement efforts, which emphasize the ongoing dialogue with the community and industry partners.

RIVER NAVIGATION AND PERMIT PROCESS

Mabey provided details on the bridge permitting process, discussing potential navigation clearances and the consideration of a fixed span. He emphasized collaboration with business community members and the need to address clearance issues, including potential vessel modifications. Mabey highlighted plans to shift the primary navigation channel southward for a 116-foot clearance, aligning with downstream structures. Simulations and feedback from vessel captains informed adjustments in the IBR program's proposal to enhance vessel maneuvering. Mabey discussed the Columbia River's navigational context, dredging authorization, and limitations posed by dams and locks. Ongoing coordination with the Army Corps considers dam removals and changes related to the Columbia River Treaty. During Q&A, CAG members raised concerns

about channel depth, the Columbia River Treaty's impact, and potential benefits for commuters. Mabey addressed these concerns, emphasizing reduced disruptions with a fixed span and ongoing efforts to coordinate with the coast guard.

COMMUNICATIONS APPROACH FOR THE DRAFT SEIS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Kimberly Webb, IBR communications lead, began by addressing earlier questions about new visualizations with their anticipated release in early spring or sooner. She continued by discussing the communications strategy for the Draft SEIS, emphasizing collaboration with the community engagement and equity teams. Webb highlighted the upcoming public comment period which will last 60 days, and efforts to make information accessible. She noted that the document will comprise a 60-page summary to meet federal requirements, with additional steps taken to ensure its accessibility to community members. The communications strategy focuses on information, educating and assisting by utilizing various channels and engaging with diverse communities. Webb introduced discussion questions for the CAG and received feedback on media strategies, culturally specific participation, accessibility of the comment process, outreach to organizations and the use of videos. Webb shared the launch of the Draft SEIS webpage, which provides information to help people prepare for the public comment period and ways to reach out to us for assistance. She continued by sharing advertising strategies, in-person events and media partnerships. CAG members provided recommendations and posed questions related to culturally specific media, access to comments, outreach to groups that oppose aspects of the program, visualizations through video and expectations from the freight community. Webb acknowledged the feedback and expressed gratitude for the direct community input.

HAYDEN ISLAND TRANSIT STATION

Matt Deml, Nolan Lienhart and Mahlon Clements — all of the IBR design team — joined the CAG to discuss design concepts for the Hayden Island transit station. Deml introduced concepts that will be fleshed out in the next level of planning beyond the Draft SEIS, aiming to prompt discussion and gather input from CAG members on how these concepts align with their values. Lienhart highlighted the program's commitment to integrating community values into station design. Clements discussed the considerations that are guiding how the program will determine the location for the station and decisions around configuration options, presenting various concepts and emphasizing alignment with community values. Concepts ranged from side platform configurations to center platform designs, with each aiming to enhance accessibility, safety and urban integration. CAG members provided feedback and raised questions regarding property impacts, more detail on what station elevation might look like, potential costs, and safety considerations. The design team assured ongoing refinement of concepts based on input they received from advisory group members.

Keohokalole Schauer concluded the session by thanking participants and highlighting upcoming meetings and public comment opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A Washington resident and former civil engineer offered public comment expressing dissatisfaction with IBR’s presented design options for bridge configuration. The commenter suggested an immersed tube tunnel as an alternative.

CAG Member Participants

Participants	Organization
Bill Prows	Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs
Darcy Hoffman	Workforce SW WA
Dena Horton	PNWA
Ed Washington	CAG Co-Chair
Gerina Hatch	Community in Motion
Irina Phillips	At-large Community Member
Jana Jarvis	Oregon Trucking Association
Jay Clark	Portland Metro Chamber
Julie Doumbia	At-large Community Member
Lynn Valenter	CAG Co-Chair
Martha Wiley	Public Transit Representative - WA
Marcus Mundy	Coalitions for Communications of Color
Mikaela Williams	At-large Community member
Sam Kim	At-large Community Member
Sheri Call	Executive Vice President – Washington Trucking Association

Participants	Organization
Tom Hickey	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Zachary Lauritzen	Oregon Walks

Facilitators and Presenters

Staff Name	Role
Ray Mabey	IBR Assistant Program Administrator
Kimberly Webb	IBR Communications Lead
Lisa Keohokalole Schauer	IBR CAG Co-Facilitator
Mahlon Clements	IBR Design Team
Matt Deml	IBR Design Team
Nolan Lienhart	IBR Design Team

Additional Attendees

- Fabian Hidalgo Guerrero, IBR CAG Lead
- Zander Arnold, IBR staff, tech support
- ASL interpreters: Amanda and Andrea
- Close Captioner: Jamie Pellegrino

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/live/zaIn0GfJTzU?si=g65fSeH3tYKrof95>

Meeting Materials

<https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cag-february-8-2024-meeting/>