

EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP (EAG) MEETING #23

Date and Time: Monday, January 23rd, 2022 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Location: Zoom Webinar and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 2

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, IBR Program Administrator, shared several updates for the program. First, the program has developed a cost estimate which will be shared later in this meeting by Assistant Program Administrator Frank Green along with additional information about economic benefits of the project. The estimate has been presented to the IBR Executive Steering Group as well as the Bi-State Legislative Committee.

Administrator Johnson also shared that the program is working on the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and it is moving forward. The program has shared technical reports with the program partners for review. Additionally, design work for the IBR program is progressing and is currently around five to six percent complete.

The IBR program has put in an application for a grant that was ultimately unsuccessful; however, the number of projects given federal grants was much higher than anticipated, which the IBR program is viewing as a good sign for future grant applications.

IBR COST ESTIMATE

Frank Green, Assistant Program Administrator, presented information about the updated IBR cost estimate and the financial plan process. First, Assistant Administrator Green reviewed the financial planning process to date that has led to the development of the updated cost estimate for the program. The Cost Estimate Validation Process (CEVP) was recently completed to provide an independent review and validation of project cost, along with schedule estimate, potential risks, and potential opportunities. Some of the risks and opportunities that have been identified in the CEVP include the availability of materials and labor, potential schedule delays, the effects of inflation, etc.

Assistant Administrator Green explained the different components of the updated cost estimate and how the projections are determined. Additionally, he described the changes in project scope from the previous Columbia River Crossing project and various cost escalation factors that have affected the estimated project

cost. Some of the key cost escalation factors included the impacts of inflation on the cost of materials, availability of materials due to global supply chain issues, and a potentially limited labor supply due to large number of other construction projects in the region.

Next, Assistant Administrator Green described potential funding sources for the program including state funding, federal funding, various grants, tolling, etc. He highlighted federal grant efforts and explained why the IBR program is competitive for many of them. Overall, based on the various assessments, the program is in a good position relative to funding sources and the estimated project cost.

Ray Mabey, Assistant Program Administrator for IBR, then discussed the Economic Impact Analysis and the different aspects that are included such as:

- How will IBR construction affect bi-regional income?
- How many jobs will IBR create?
- The net economic impact of federal funding in the region and infrastructure investments

Assistant Administrator Mabey shared projections for project expenditures, gross economic activity, construction employment, and total gross employment for the IBR project. He then covered the upcoming work for the project in terms of refining project cost estimates, mitigating program risks, incorporating cost savings opportunities, and a tolling study.

Q: EAG member commented that it would be helpful to know more about the actual jobs (by trade), that are anticipated to be created, especially in the context of workforce development efforts.

A: Assistant Administrator Green shared that part of the work ahead of the program is the breakdown of work packages and determining how to best sequence them, which will help to better understand workforce needs and timing.

Q: EAG member asked for clarification on how the job projections are calculated and what the numbers mean.

A: Assistant Administrator Mabey explained that it is measured by a full-time position for one person for a year, over the lifespan of the project.

Q: EAG member commented that when communicating the economic impact out to the public it is important to discuss the policies that we are hoping to layer on so we can understand things like, “jobs being created for who?” The human impact needs to be highlighted when discussing the economic impact projections (especially about jobs and income) because some of the numbers are so large that they are hard to contextualize for individuals, communities, and families.

A: Administrator Johnson shared that the program is looking forward to talking about career-path opportunities for local youth and others in the region, and to project what their wages could be by the end of the IBR program. It is important to share scenarios where people can see themselves matriculating through large construction projects in the region and making careers out of it.

Q: EAG member asked whether potential tax revenue resulting from the impact of the IBR program and local development is being factored into the economic impact projections.

A: Administrator Mabey said that is something the project can explore further, but has not done so in depth at this point.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS CONT'D

Jake Warr, Equity Lead, reviewed the process so far to develop the equity key performance indicators (KPIs) in collaboration with the EAG, and then shared the most updated version of them. Jake then asked EAG members for feedback and explained that they can share their ideas in an ongoing basis as the KPIs continue to be refined.

Q. EAG member asked for clarification about the tribal employment rates vs. requirement KPI, and whether or not is referring to TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance) requirements.

A. Jake and Administrator Johnson shared that their interpretation is that means the percentage of the workforce that is a tribal member; however, they will be sure to further clarify this and whether it is related to TERO.

Q. EAG member asked whether it is possible to somehow measure or track decisions for the program that were impacted by community engagement.

A: Jake shared that the program would be interested in ideas on how to make this connection more explicit and will do some thinking around that.

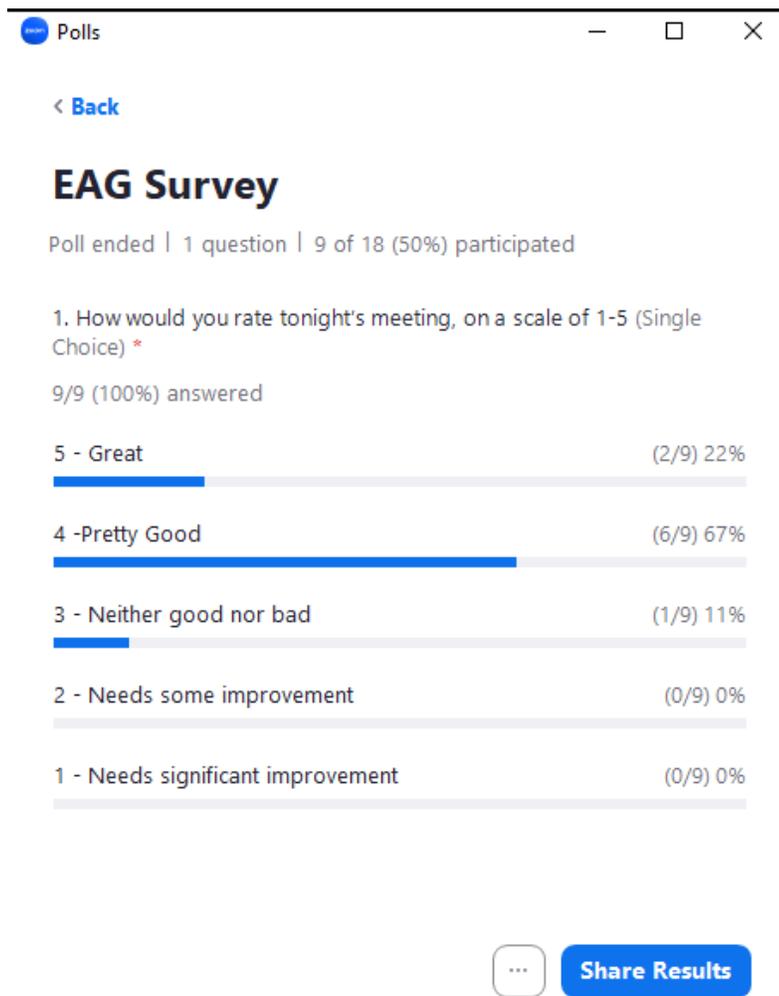
Q: EAG member commented that it is important to consider the timing component for workforce development because part of the success depends on investing early enough for workers to be training in time to work on the project. Also, another important thing to prioritize for workforce development investments is capacity-building for training and support (and local organizations in this space) to help meet the demand for workers on the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jake shared that a written public comment was submitted prior to this meeting and was shared out with the EAG members.

A community member also shared a public comment about passenger rail alternatives.

MEETING EVALUATION POLL



ADJOURN

- Next EAG meeting: February 27, 2023, 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Following EAG meeting: March 20, 2023; 5:30-7:30pm

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
EAG Members	
John Gardner	TriMet
Tanya Adams	WSP
Shane Valle	Portland Bureau of Transportation
Shona Carter	Community Foundation of SW Washington
Jennifer Campos	RTC
Sebrina Owens-Wilson	Metro
Aidan Gronauer	WSDOT
Miriam Halliday	WSW
Katherine Kelley	City of Vancouver
Alicia Sojourner	City of Vancouver
IBR Staff	
Jake Warr	Equity Lead
Emilee Thomas Peralta	Equity Team
Salome Chimuku	Communications
Johnell Bell	Principal Equity Officer
Brent Hamlin	Tech support
Dr. Roberta Hunte	Facilitator
Greg Johnson	Program Administrator
Frank Green	Assistant Program Administrator

Attendees	Organization/Affiliation
Ray Mabey	Assistant Program Administrator
Jim Ruddell	Program Manager
Shannon Singleton	Equity Team

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

A recording of the meeting is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rsd-1IjddRk>

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: <https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/eag-october-17-meeting/>