

COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY GROUP (CBAG)

MEETING SUMMARY #10

Date and Time: Thursday, June 27, 2024 / 9:30 – 11:30 am

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

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 7

OUTCOMES

- CBAG members brainstormed and discussed potential community benefits recommendations related to the Avoid Further Harm category.

WELCOME

Johnell Bell, Principal Equity Officer and co-facilitator, opened the June 2024 CBAG meeting. He reviewed instructions to access closed captioning, meeting participation tips, ASL interpretation reminders, public input instructions and CBAG group agreements.

Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, City of Vancouver Mayor, extended a warm welcome to everyone.

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

Emilee Thomas-Peralta, Equity team and CBAG co-facilitator, asked 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 the highlight of their week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas-Peralta shared how to provide public comments. There was no written public comment received before the meeting. Thomas-Peralta then explained the options for submitting comments post-meeting.

One member of the public joined virtually to provide a public comment during the meeting: Bob Ortblad commented on the community benefits, environmental impacts, job creation, toll bonds and a preference for revisiting a tunnel alternative for the program.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Administrator Johnson shared the following program updates:

- Bi-state Legislative Committee (June 10): The bi-state legislative committee meeting was well attended by legislators from both sides of the river. Discussions included tolling, with no plans to toll

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bicycles or pedestrians, and that tolling will also help reduce congestion and promote cleaner transportation. The committee expects to meet again before the year's end to continue the conversation.

- Bi-state Tolling Subcommittee (June 21): This group, a subcommittee of both the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Washington State Transportation Commission, continues to meet to discuss toll rates and policies for the I-5 bridge.
- Association of Washington Cities Tour (June 20): The program hosted a one-hour walking tour of the Interstate Bridge Replacement, covering the bridge's history, maintenance challenges and proposed replacement plans.
- Community Engagement: The program is continuing robust community engagement to share project information and answer questions at fairs, festivals, and any requested presentations ahead of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) document release later this year.
 - Summer tabling events completed in June 2024:
 - Vancouver Multicultural Resource Fair (June 1)
 - Vancouver Juneteenth Freedom Celebration (June 15)
 - Portland NE Cully Sunday Parkways (June 16)
 - Esther Short Neighborhood Association (June 25)
- Industry Outreach:
 - Administrator Johnson participated in a panel at the ASCE International Conference on Transportation & Development (June 16) session with two other speakers discussing equity and transportation. Johnson plans to invite one or both speakers to come and discuss some of the issues the OR and WA community face.
 - At the Business Leaders Regional Transportation Summit (June 17), Johnson reported he had a great conversation with contractors and consultants about what the program is about and the importance of community input.

PRESENTATION ON POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS IN AVOID FURTHER HARM CATEGORY

Thomas-Peralta reviewed the CBAG workplan and explained the work being done by the CBAG and technical teams in between CBAG meetings.

- CBAG Workplan:
 - Brainstorm (3/2024 - 8/2024)
 - Review/Refine (tentatively 9/2024 - 3/2025)
 - Recommend (tentatively 4/2025 - 5/2025)

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- **Interdisciplinary Team Analysis and Coordination:** The Community Benefits, Design, Environmental, Procurement, Climate, Finance, DBE/Workforce, and Agreements teams, as well as the Tribal Liaison, analyze proposed benefits by providing essential feedback and posing critical questions to ensure that the Community Benefits team bring questions, comments, and feedback from the technical experts back to the CBAG for their review/refine sessions.

She went on to describe the asset mapping sessions that were conducted with program partners and interested parties, like Kimco Realty, to identify potential resources that align with community benefits. This work seeks to leverage existing resources and funding and to integrate efforts such as development, parks and green spaces to maximize community benefits for impacted communities.

Meeting materials included the Community Benefits Tracker, a comprehensive handout that includes all proposed benefits brainstormed to date.

Thomas-Peralta led the presentation on potential community benefits in the Avoid Further Harm category, examples included:

- Improve communication with the community during construction by dedicating channels to report issues, potentially drawing inspiration from ODOT's "ask ODOT" system.
- Consider using AI and technical tools for real-time support to address community member concerns or questions.
- Perform foundation inspection/video on sensitive homes and buildings or those adjacent to high-vibration construction activities (e.g. demolition) prior to the beginning of construction to document existing condition and any subsequent damage caused by IBR.
- Define a potential good neighbor agreement for construction.

Questions and comments from CBAG Members:

CBAG Member: I would like to understand the timeline, noting that some discussions impact the bridge design. What is the latest possible date to finalize recommendations, considering construction is set to begin at the end of 2025? What is the drop-dead date beyond which changes would no longer be possible?

Shannon Singleton, Community Benefits Lead: We may need to revisit this. We met with task leads yesterday to align timelines, so adjustments might be necessary. The timeline is tentative, depending on dates for specific tasks. We'll provide more information after the task leads review the materials we shared.

Johnson: We will have a design-build contract for the bridge, involving months of meetings with the selected contractor to work through design details. Bridge work will not start in 2025 or 2026; the first in-water work window is in 2027. We are currently in the preliminary design phase to explore ideas, so nothing is finalized yet, and there is still plenty of time for input.

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CBAG Member: So, we're supposed to look at the first page of the Community Benefits Tracker and continue adding to it? And the four or five bulleted items you had on the presentation slides — are they not already on this page?

Thomas-Peralta: The items should be part of the Tracker but are not from the initial batch of CBAG recommendations—they are additional ideas to build upon. The blue items show what the CBAG has recommended. Two items on the presentation slides are listed as AFH 11 and 12 on the Tracker, while others, like inspections for foundation damage and good neighbor agreements, are new ideas to consider. This process aims to brainstorm and incorporate new ideas.

Shannon Singleton then broke the meeting into small groups to further brainstorm and discuss the Avoid Further Harm category.

LARGE GROUP REPORT

Johnell Bell welcomed members back to the large group setting and asked each group to report out from their small group discussions.

Report-outs included:

- Emphasis on early and ongoing communication from pre-construction through construction using various methods to keep the community informed.
- The need to document existing property conditions and notify property owners early for better preparation.
- The importance of increasing public transport services during construction and setting up new bridge transportation systems early.
- Broad strategies to ensure consistent engagement with the community throughout the program's duration.
- Support for outreach and housing to individuals experiencing homelessness who live in the program area.
- The need for sustainable design, emphasizing criteria such as embodied carbon, energy efficiency, and resource conservation, along with the preservation of historically significant sites, structures, and artifacts.
- Development of a resource hotline for community concerns and budget for addressing issues promptly.
- Emphasis on workforce development as a continuous topic in future meetings.

Notes from small group discussions:

- Develop comprehensive strategies and funding options with the program and other partners that can be implemented to address the relocation and housing needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness affected by the program.
 - Explore partnerships and funding options with agencies providing culturally specific services focused on equity priority communities and those who conduct street outreach and engagement for housing placement.

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- Minimize impacts on small businesses during construction, particularly those on Hayden Island, to avoid extended closures.
- Ensure that native communities maintain access to the river throughout construction.
- Explore opportunities for the development of housing for the construction workforce on Hayden Island to support the local economy during construction.
- Provide property owners in the program area a list of qualified professionals that can perform foundation inspections/videos prior to construction to establish baseline conditions for determining whether any subsequent impacts are caused by IBR construction.
- Develop a comprehensive communication plan for before and during construction to keep the public informed of potential impacts such as noise, route closures, other mobility impacts, etc.
 - To include a hotline or point of contact like an "Ask the Bridge" line, drawing inspiration from ODOT's "Ask ODOT" system, and the use of permanent electronic billboards at key neighborhood locations to announce upcoming bridge activities and road closures.
- Increase public transportation services and explore alternative routes to mitigate transportation impacts during construction, including the implementation of shuttle buses and additional bus routes.
- Collaborate with companies that provide mapping and navigation services to integrate notifications into navigation systems to keep the public informed about construction impacts and alternative routes.
- Establish a comprehensive process for community members to voice concerns and report negative impacts.
 - Develop an online platform where community members can report issues and receive timely responses, ensuring a commitment to responsiveness and resolution.
- The eminent domain process and outreach must include considerations for language access and culturally specific and relevant services.
- Identify set-aside funds for direct impact mitigations resulting from construction.

CLOSING REMARKS

Bell transitioned to the next segment, informing members about upcoming CBAG and program meetings.

Johnson commended the members for their hard work and dedication to community benefits.

ATTENDEES

Attendees	Organization
CBAG Members	
Greg Johnson	Program Administrator
Anne McEnery-Ogle	City of Vancouver Mayor

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Eric Holmes	City of Vancouver City Manager
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
Farleigh Winters	LSW Architects
Carley Francis	Washington State Department of Transportation
Rian Windsheimer	Oregon Department of Transportation
Tom Hickey	Community Advisory Group Representative
Walter Valenta	Community at large
Jayne Haygood	Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Holly Willams	Workforce Southwest Washington
Steve Barnett	Representative for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Nate McCoy	National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC)

Attendees	Organization
IBR Staff	
Johnell Bell	Principal Equity Officer
Shannon Singleton	Community Benefits Lead
Emilee Thomas-Peralta	Equity Team
Eric Trinh	Equity Team
Bree Nicoletto	Equity Team
Erika McCalpine	Equity Team
Jeannet Santiago	Equity Team
Salome Chimuku	Community Engagement Lead
Fabiola Casas	Equity Team
Fabián Hidalgo Guerrero	Community Engagement Team
Lucy Hamer	Equity Team
Paris Moore	Community Engagement Team
Monika Johnson	Equity Team
Shanrika McClain	Equity Team
Amelia Ulsh	Technical Support

Additional Participants

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Online viewing is open to the public, partner agency staff, and IBR team members. Seven participants viewed the meeting via the YouTube livestream during the meeting.

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7J2E5-h2rM>

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available here: <https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cbag-meeting-june-27-2024/>