



Interstate
BRIDGE
Replacement Program



Equity Advisory Group

November 20, 2023

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Reminders

- ▶ We encourage EAG members to turn on your video.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Icebreaker
- ▶ Program Administrator Update
- ▶ Draft SEIS
- ▶ Public Comment Overview
- ▶ Equity KPIs
- ▶ Public comment
- ▶ Close out

Icebreaker

- ▶ Name + pronouns
- ▶ Affiliation
- ▶ What's a quality you appreciate most in others?

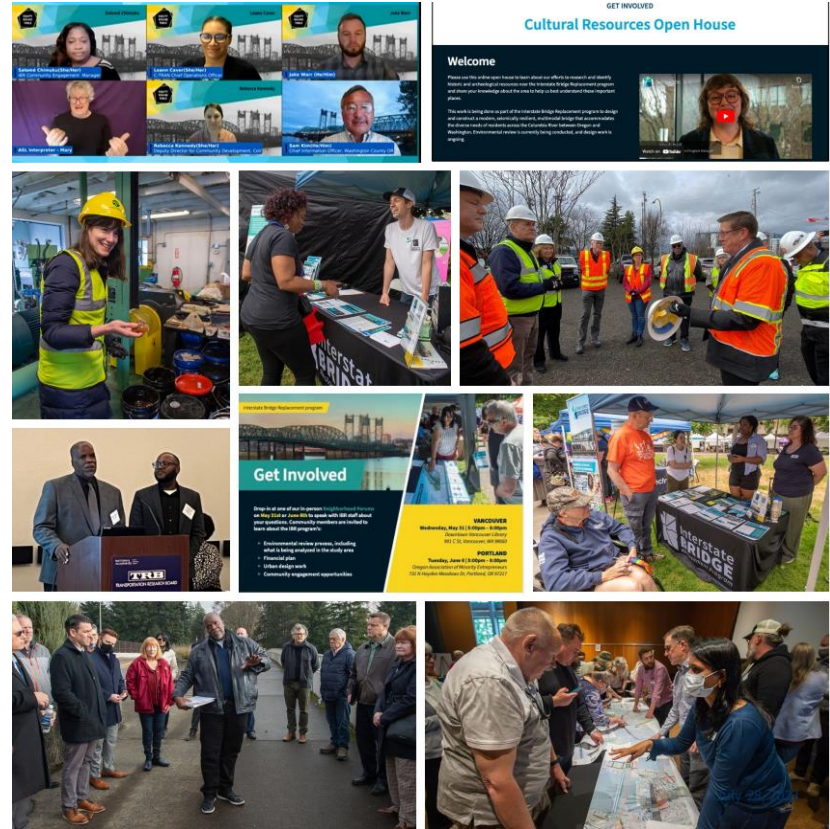
Program Update

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator

Recent Program Updates

► Recent presentations:

- Vancouver Transportation and Mobility Commission
- Association of General Contractors
- Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
- Pacific NW Waterways Association
- Neighborhood Associations:
 - *HiNooN (Hayden Island Neighborhood Association)*
 - *East Columbia Neighborhood Association*
 - *Bridgeton Neighborhood Association*
- City of Portland Historic Landmarks and Design Committee



Recent Program Updates

▶ Bi-State Legislative Committee Meeting – Nov. 3

- Video recording and meeting materials available online
- www.interstatebridge.org/calendar

▶ Contractor Meet and Greet – Nov. 8

- Opportunity for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises & Small Business Enterprises to learn about potential future contracting work, discover resources for technical support and network with other contractors

▶ IBR Tour with Oregon Transportation Commission – Nov. 8





Draft SEIS

Angela Findley, Environmental Lead

SEIS Process

- ▶ **The IBR program is studying the Modified LPA and a No-Build Alternative to understand the effects of each alternative on the community and environment**
 - The Modified LPA is not the final design but identifies key elements to study in the SEIS process
 - Draft SEIS presents the specific design components of the Modified LPA and the potential impacts, benefits and mitigation
- ▶ **The results of the analysis will be published in the Draft SEIS**
 - All findings will be available for public review and comment
 - No decisions or changes to elements of the Modified LPA will be made until after there has been time for community feedback
 - Additional refinements and adjustments can be made to the Modified LPA in response to public comments and other design considerations to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts identified in the Draft SEIS
- ▶ **Next steps after the public comment period ends includes publishing a Final SEIS and Record of Decision**

Alternatives and Design Options

▶ Modified Locally Preferred Alternative

- Modified LPA will be compared to the No-Build Alternative
 - Full program alternative that includes the corridor-wide multimodal improvements
- Design Options
 - Options considered for specific locations or components
 - Options can represent “bookends” that will be evaluated in the Draft SEIS
 - After the public comments are reviewed, many options will be narrowed to a single solution, which may be a specific option evaluated or a solution that is between the “bookends”

▶ No-Build Alternative

- None of the improvements associated with Modified LPA would be implemented
- Other planned projects that are independent of the IBR program would proceed

▶ Each alternative is a future condition – conditions projected to occur in 2045 (this is called the design horizon)

Conceptual Design

General alignments and locations of transportation facilities

Design Options

- Bridge configurations
- Auxiliary lanes
- I-5 Alignment in Downtown Vancouver
- C Street Ramps
- Park and Rides at transit stations

Draft SEIS Contents

- ▶ **Summary**
- ▶ **Front Matter**
- ▶ **Ch 1. Purpose & Need**
- ▶ **Ch 2. Alternatives**
- ▶ **Ch 3. Existing Conditions and Environmental Consequences**
 - 3.01 Transportation
 - 3.02 Aviation & Navigation
 - 3.03 Acquisitions & Displacements
 - 3.04 Land Use & Economic Activity
 - 3.05 Neighborhoods & Equity
 - 3.06 Public Service & Utilities
 - 3.07 Parks & Recreation
 - 3.08 Cultural Resources
 - 3.09 Visual Quality
 - 3.10 Air Quality
 - 3.11 Noise & Vibration
 - 3.12 Energy
 - 3.13 Electric & Magnetic Fields
 - 3.14 Water Quality & Hydrology
 - 3.15 Wetlands and Waters
 - 3.16 Ecosystems
 - 3.17 Geology & Groundwater
 - 3.18 Hazardous Materials
 - 3.19 Climate
 - 3.20 Environmental Justice
 - 3.21 Section 6(f) & Federal Lands to Parks
 - 3.22 Cumulative Effects
- ▶ **Ch 4. Financial Analysis**
- ▶ **Ch 5. Section 4(f) Evaluation**
- ▶ **Appendices**
 - A. Agency & Tribal Coordination
 - B. Public Involvement
 - C. Concept Design Drawings
 - D. Design Option Development and Screening Report
 - E. References
 - F. List of Preparers
 - G. List of Draft SEIS Recipients
 - H. List of Technical Reports
 - I. Glossary
 - J. Index

Modified LPA Components



Draft SEIS – What is Evaluated?

▶ Impacts and benefits

- Mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Long-term direct effects
- Short-term construction effects
- Indirect effects (occur farther in distance or further in time)
- Cumulative effects (program effects in combination with past, present and future effects from other actions)

▶ Mitigation

- Proposed measures to address unavoidable adverse impacts where possible
 - *Regulatory and Best Management Practices*
 - *Project-specific mitigation*

The EAG's Role with the SEIS

- ▶ Help spread the word to your respective communities about the Draft SEIS becoming available for public review and the importance of providing public comment to shape decisions on the solution that advances to the Final SEIS and Record of Decision
 - 60-day comment period
 - In-person and online opportunities to receive information, ask questions, and submit comments
- ▶ Public comment provides valuable information for the program to work with local, state and federal agency partners to make key decisions about the program's design
- ▶ Provide your own public comment on the Draft SEIS

Draft SEIS Timeline

- ▶ **Expected release of the draft SEIS: early 2024**
 - 60-day public comment period
- ▶ **Community engagement efforts leading up to and/or during the public comment period will include a range of activities such as:**
 - Advisory group meetings
 - Neighborhood association meeting and forums
 - Public briefings and events held with CBOs and other partners
 - Public open houses/hearings
- ▶ **Refinements to draft SEIS addressing public feedback: mid- to late 2024**
 - A corridor-wide alternative for analysis in the final EIS will be confirmed
- ▶ **Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD): late 2024 to early 2025**

Upcoming Decisions for the Final SEIS

- ▶ **The Draft SEIS, public comments and coordination with agencies and tribes will inform the following program decisions:**
 - Bridge configurations
 - *Double-deck fixed-span*
 - *Single-level fixed-span*
 - *Single level with a moveable span over primary navigation channel*
 - One or two auxiliary lanes in each direction of I-5
 - With or without C Street on- and off-ramps to I-5 in downtown Vancouver
 - Centered or westward shift of I-5 between SR 14 and Evergreen Blvd.
 - Possible park and ride facilities at new Waterfront and/or Evergreen transit stations

Discussion

- ▶ **How can we help the community prepare for the Draft SEIS?**
 - Access to the Draft SEIS document
 - Understand the No-Build Alternative and Modified LPA
 - Find information in the Draft SEIS
 - Understand potential impacts, benefits and mitigation
 - Provide comments on Draft SEIS information
 - Other
- ▶ **What information is most important for the public to understand about the Draft SEIS document?**



Public Comment for the Draft SEIS

Salomé Chimuku, Community Engagement Lead

Kimberly Webb, Communications Lead

Public Comment Overview

- ▶ **The public will have 60 days to submit comments following release of the Draft SEIS expected in early 2024.**
 - Information on the Modified LPA and design options is already available online at interstatebridge.org/nextsteps for you to review as you begin preparing to submit public comment.
- ▶ **Over the coming months, IBR will provide more information about what is being studied to aid in preparing for the public comment period.**
- ▶ **When you submit a public comment, the program will record the comment, and provide a response to the comment in the Final SEIS in late 2024 or early 2025.**

SEIS Public Comment: How to Participate

- ▶ **Draft SEIS: Early 2024**
 - Submitting a web-based form
 - Emailing a comment
 - Sending a comment through the mail
 - Calling the IBR office to leave a verbal comment
 - Commenting at public hearings
- ▶ **IBR will provide various ways to provide comments as the publication date approaches, and there will be information on the website.**
- ▶ **Comments do not have to be in English, and the program will accommodate accessibility, ADA, and other needs.**

How We Are Informing the Public

▶ Advertising

- Federal register, local newspaper of record, additional local and culturally specific media outlets including print and radio and social media.

▶ Multimedia engagement

- Video series on program area needs and investments, environmental process and ways to comment.

▶ Written engagement

- Postcards, display boards for in-person meetings, factsheets, etc.

▶ In person

- Advisory group meetings streamed on YouTube, neighborhood associations, public forums and briefings, etc.

▶ In the media

- Proactive outreach to media outlets

Engagement Leading Up to Draft SEIS

▶ The Content:

- What are the components of a Draft SEIS
- What to expect during the public comment period
- How the community can provide public comment and what happens after they submit their comment

▶ Intended Outcomes:

- Solicit feedback to help inform our future content and approach to engagement
- Understand information needs from the public about the Draft SEIS process so we can answer their questions ahead of and during the public comment period
- Conduct intentional outreach to equity priority communities to try and reach proportional level of public comment during the release

Engagement to Support the Draft SEIS Public Comment Period

▶ Formal requirements:

- Public Hearings
- Public Notifications

▶ Additional engagement opportunities:

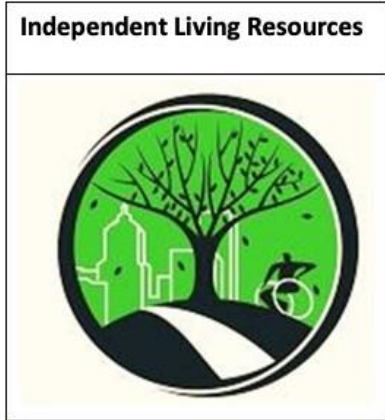
- Office Hours
- Briefings
- Presentations
- CBO mini-grants
 - *Community Forum*
 - *Affinity listening sessions*
- Literature drop
- Direct mail
- In-person outreach
- Tabling at local events and gatherings
- Infobox inquiries
- Equity roundtable

▶ Audiences include:

- Equity priority communities
- Residents in the program area
- Property and business owners
- Neighborhood associations
- Current and future travelers over the bridge who drive, use transit, or active transportation
- Community-Based Organizations

Participating Community-Based Organizations

- ▶ The IBR program is collaborating with the following CBOs on outreach to equity priority communities leading up to the release of the Draft SEIS



Discussion

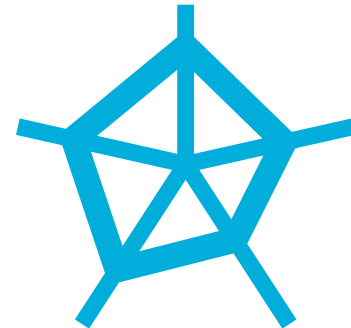
- ▶ How can we share the content of the Draft SEIS in a way that helps the community provide feedback?
- ▶ What additional community engagement would you encourage the program to conduct with the outcome of encouraging active public participation and feedback?

Equity Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Johnell Bell, Principal Equity Officer

Why KPIs?

- ▶ Track progress towards our Equity Objectives
- ▶ Support program accountability – what are we getting for this significant public investment?
- ▶ Help determine where the program can make a difference in advancing equity – and where there are gaps



Process recap



Decision

- ▶ Do you support recommending the KPIs as drafted to the IBR Program Administrator?
 - If there is group consensus, the next steps will be for the Program to consider what to adopt, then report back to EAG

Public Comment

Comment Instructions

- ▶ Through Zoom:
 - ▶ Please use the link located in the meeting description on the YouTube meeting page or on the IBR EAG meeting webpage.
 - ▶ Commenters will be allowed to turn on their webcams, but will not be allowed to share their screens and will be removed from the room once the public comment period concludes.
- ▶ By phone:
 - ▶ Dial 253-215-8782
 - ▶ Meeting ID: 986 0940 5983
 - ▶ Passcode: 701376
 - ▶ Dial *9 to raise your hand
 - ▶ Dial *6 to unmute yourself
- ▶ The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- ▶ Please provide your name and affiliation.
- ▶ Commenters will be given 2 minutes to speak.



or



Comment Instructions

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.
- ▶ 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: December 18, 5:30 – 7:30pm