

## MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #37

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

Location: Zoom Meeting and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 15

## OUTCOMES

- Receive an update on recent program activities.
- CAG members will learn about the third-party Health Analysis being conducted and provide feedback on health topics to consider.
- Receive an overview of the community engagement plan for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) and preview August public briefing.

## WELCOME & PROGRAM UPDATE

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, and Johnell Bell, CAG co-facilitators, opened the meeting and provided introductory comments. Keohokalole Schauer welcomed Ed Washington and Lynn Valenter, CAG co-chairs. Valenter then invited members of the group to introduce themselves.

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) program, highlighted the program's recent public involvement and activities. He provided an update on presentations to the Oregon Transportation Commission, Washington Transportation Commission, and the bi-state tolling subcommittee. Johnson described the program's community engagement efforts, including tours of the existing bridge, tabling at events, and presentations to neighborhood associations. Johnson also highlighted the program's recent \$1.49 billion grant award from the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Investment Program (BIP), which was celebrated at a recent event attended by federal and state officials.

During the Q&A, a CAG member asked about the Senate delegation's comments on the bridge structure and freight considerations. Johnson emphasized the delegation's recognition of the structure's local, regional, and national significance. The delegation discussed the bridge's critical role in regional freight movement, as well as the importance of integrating multimodal transportation options into the new structure.

## INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH ANALYSIS

Daryl Wendle, Deputy Program Manager for the IBR program, introduced the health analysis. He conveyed that this analysis was a critical component of the program, motivated by requests from several jurisdictional health department partners in Oregon and Washington.

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## HEALTH ANALYSIS

Alyssa Shaw, MSW, Environmental Health Assessment Team Lead, and Anna Caudill, MPH, Environmental Health Evaluations Specialist, began the presentation by outlining their methodical approach to the health analysis and described the scope of the work completed. The process, which began in January 2024, involved collaboration with a multi-state, multi-jurisdictional working group. Shaw and Caudill explained while a health analysis is not a traditional Health Impact Assessment (HIA) due to time constraints, their approach still adhered to HIA standards.

Using a technical framework of analysis centered in equity and environmental justice, the Health Analysis team's work covered six main topic areas: air quality, transportation and active transportation, climate and heat, noise, social determinants of health, and water quality. For each topic, the team conducted a literature review and connected the findings to local health data provided by their public health partners. This approach allowed them to create a detailed picture of current health conditions in the area and IBR program area, and how these might be affected by different phases of the project including design, construction, and long-term operation.

Shaw and Caudill elaborated on the team's equity and environmental justice focus and explained how the framework served as a tool that helps understand the ways in which the project's impact might affect community members, particularly those who have traditionally experienced greater health disparities. They cited examples like the relationship between reduced tree canopy cover in low-income communities and higher heat exposure to illustrate how infrastructure projects could exacerbate or mitigate existing health inequities. Shaw opened the Q&A portion of their presentation up to CAG members by asking, "What health concerns have you heard from the community in regard to the project?"

During the Health Analysis Q&A, a CAG member asked whether the team's analysis considers the impact on commuters and freight transporters who must deal with traffic during bridge construction, and other members echoed concern about air quality, water quality, and noise pollution during the construction phase. Shaw explained that the analysis looked at potential health impacts throughout the design and construction phases of the project and that these concerns would be included in their analysis. CAG members also had questions about the limited availability of detailed air quality data, and Shaw acknowledged this data gap, citing this as a limitation of high importance amongst their team's findings.

Johnson asked the Health Analysis team whether they had reviewed the HIA performed in 2008 for the Columbia River Crossing project, and Shaw confirmed that this information was accessed and is currently under review by their team. At the conclusion of the discussion Shaw raised the questions, "Based on your lived experience, what health concerns do you have related to the project?" and "Are there any recommendations for the IBR program you would like to see based on community health concerns?" CAG members gave recommendations that greenspace prioritization and air quality monitoring be considered critical components of the IBR program's health impact considerations.

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## DRAFT SEIS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Hannah Williams, IBR Community Engagement Team, briefed the CAG on the status of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Community Engagement Plan and encouraged the group to continue to collaborate with the IBR Program’s Community Engagement Team during the next phases of the plan. Williams outlined the program’s commitment to engaging with community members throughout the upcoming 60-day public comment period.

Key plan elements include two virtual public briefings scheduled for late August, prior to the Draft SEIS release. These briefings aim to educate community members on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and discuss the public comment period, including various ways to participate. Additionally, an Equity Roundtable planned for early fall, will highlight how public comments have influenced previous infrastructure projects. Williams described the activation of a community/partner toolkit as a third tool in the plan to be deployed in early fall.

Following the Draft SEIS release, the plan includes in-person public hearings and open houses, in Portland and Vancouver, as well as two virtual public hearings, providing forums for official public comments. Williams emphasized the importance of CAG members in publicizing these events and encouraging community participation. She also outlined the extensive reach of community notification tools, and the type of communications and various ways people can submit comments including online forms, email, voicemail, and mail.

The plan includes a strategy for closing the feedback loop, with an interim summary of comments to be published in early 2025, followed by a full comment report with responses in mid-2025. Williams explained that public comments are critical for updating technical analysis, refining design options, and informing future design decisions. She noted that all comments will be reviewed and responded to, with responses published in the Final SEIS.

After Williams’ presentation, Kimberly Webb, IBR Communications Lead, previewed the content for the upcoming public briefings, which will include the NEPA process, the Draft SEIS structure, and key areas of analysis, such as transportation, environmental and community impacts. Williams and Webb opened the meeting for a Q&A session on the Draft SEIS Community Engagement Plan, during which no questions were raised by CAG members.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

## CAG Member Participants

Participants	Organization
Ed Washington	CAG Co-Chair
Gerina Hatch	Community in Motion

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Participants	Organization
Hayley Watson	Oregon Building Trades Council
Irina Phillips	At-large Community Member
Jana Jarvis	Oregon Trucking Association
Jay Clark	PMC
Jon Wilson	The Vancouver Clinic, Columbia River Economic Development Council
Lynn Valenter	CAG Co-Chair
Martha Wiley	Public Transit Representative - WA
Mikaela Williams	At-large Community Member
Sam Kim	At-large Community Member
Sheri Call	Washington Trucking Association
Tom Hickey	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Zachary Lauritzen	Oregon Walks

## Facilitators and Presenters

Staff Name	Role
Greg Johnson	IBR Program Administrator
Johnell Bell	IBR CAG Co-facilitator
Lisa Keohokalole Schauer	IBR CAG Co-facilitator
Daryl Wendle	Deputy Program Manager
Alyssa Shaw	MSW, Environmental Health Assessment Team Lead
Anna Caudill	MPH, Environmental Health Evaluations Specialist
Hannah Williams	IBR Community Engagement Team
Kimberly Webb	IBR Communications Lead

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## Additional Attendees

- Fabian Hidalgo Guerrero, IBR Staff, CAG Lead
- Amanda Hart, IBR Staff, tech support
- ASL interpreters: Andrea and Amanda
- Close Captioner: Jaime Pellegrino

## MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

### Meeting Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1djUot3dyc>

### Meeting Materials

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