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Summary of Engagement

Draft SEIS Comment Period

March 2025

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Draft SEIS Comment Period

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ASL	American Sign Language
CAG	Community Advisory Group
CBAG	Community Benefits Advisory Group
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEL	Community Engagement Liasion
CRC	Columbia River Crossing
C-TRAN	Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area
EAG	Equity Advisory Group
ESG	Executive Steering Group
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
I-205	Interstate 205
I-5	Interstate 5
IBR	Interstate Bridge Replacement
Modified LPA	Modified Locally Preferred Alternative
LRT	Light-rail transit
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
QR	Quick Response
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
TriMet	Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District

1. INTRODUCTION

The Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program is a bridge, transit, active transportation and highway improvement project developed to address safety and mobility on a 5-mile section of the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor between Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. The IBR Program is the renewal of the previously suspended Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project and addresses the same purpose and needs identified in the 2011 CRC Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The IBR Program with federal lead agencies; the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and nonfederal lead agencies; Oregon Department of Transportation, Washington Department of Transportation, Tri-County Transportation District (TriMet), Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (C-TRAN), Oregon Metro (Metro), and Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The Draft SEIS evaluates the No-Build Alternative and the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The Draft SEIS was published on September 20, 2024, which was the start of the 60-day public comment period that ended November 18, 2024.

This document summarizes the engagement and outreach that the IBR Program conducted to solicit comments during the Draft SEIS comment period.

2. DRAFT SEIS ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

This section summarizes notification and public engagement activities associated with the IBR Program's Draft SEIS. The public engagement before and during the Draft SEIS public comment period aimed to inform the community of the release of the Draft SEIS and the many ways to provide public comment.

2.1 Purpose of Engagement

The IBR Program conducted a communications and public engagement effort during the Draft SEIS comment period to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and state guidelines and to address the concerns of the community. This engagement aimed to gather valuable public input on the potential community and environmental impacts outlined in the Draft SEIS. The comments collected during this period will help ensure that the IBR Program identified the potential effects of the Modified LPA and mitigation measures to address adverse effects and inform the selection of the Preferred Alternative.

2.2 Methods to Collect Draft SEIS Comments

The IBR Program provided the following public comment submission options to accommodate various communication preferences, language needs, and those with limited access to the internet or technology. For all submission options, comments were accepted in a commenter's native language.

- **IBR Program online comment form** – The form asked commenters to provide general information, including name, organization, address, and contact details, and contained an open-ended comment box. The comment form was only active during the 60-day public comment period. Commenters could access the form via a link on the Program's website and a dedicated landing page where the Draft SEIS resources were located. Additionally, a pop-up banner on the front page of the IBR website greeted website visitors, inviting them to visit the Draft SEIS landing page and public comment form. The online comment form was available in 11 languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, Arabic, and Korean.
- **IBR Draft SEIS dedicated email** – Commenters who preferred to send an email or attach documents could contact the Program directly at a dedicated inbox, draftseis@interstatebridge.org. This email address was specifically created for the Draft SEIS and was active only during the comment period. To be accepted, audio/visual submissions needed to be transcribed, and attachments to emails needed to either provide comments on the Draft SEIS or be referenced within the main body of the email to clarify how that attachment was intended to be interpreted. The dedicated email for public comment was listed on the Program website and included in notification materials.
- **IBR general email** – Comments received through the IBR Program general email address (info@interstatebridge.org) pertaining to the Draft SEIS were considered Draft SEIS comments during the comment period.

- **Mail** – The IBR Program welcomed written comments via mail: Interstate Bridge Replacement Program, *Attn:* Draft SEIS Public Comment, 500 Broadway, Suite 200, Vancouver, Washington 98660.
- **Drop off in person** – The IBR Program welcomed written comments via drop off at the IBR Program office: 500 Broadway, Suite 200, Vancouver, Washington 98660.
- **Paper comment form** – A paper comment form was provided at the in-person public hearings and open houses for individuals who preferred to provide handwritten comments. Paper comment forms could be returned to staff at in-person events or submitted via mail. The paper form was available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Somali, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Tagalog. Community Engagement Liaisons (CEs) also utilized paper comment forms in their work to encourage equity priority community members to submit public comment (see Section 2.4.2.1). In addition to the languages already listed, paper forms were also available in Korean and Arabic for use in small group discussions organized by the CEs.
- **In-person public hearings and open houses** – The IBR Program hosted two public hearings and open houses, one in Vancouver, Washington on October 15, and one in Portland, Oregon on October 17, 2024 (see Section 2.4.1.4). The community had an opportunity to learn about the proposed investments, impacts and benefits from the Draft SEIS and ask questions. Commenters were invited to give verbal comments to a court reporter.
- **Virtual public hearings** – The IBR Program hosted two virtual public hearings to collect comments on the Draft SEIS on October 26 and October 30, 2024 (see Section 2.4.1.7). Commenters were invited to give verbal comments to a court reporter who transcribed comments live during the hearing.
- **Voicemail** – As an alternative to online or written options, commenters could provide verbal comments by calling the Draft SEIS voicemail line at: (866) 427-7347. Audio instructions to use the voicemail were provided in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Somali, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Tagalog. Partway through the comment period, options to respond in Korean and Arabic were added (see Section 2.4.2.3).

2.3 Informational Tools and Tactics

The IBR Program team developed informational materials and distributed notifications during the public comment period. These tools and tactics provided information about the IBR Program, the Draft SEIS, and how to provide comments.

2.3.1 Informational Materials

2.3.1.1 IBR Program Website and Dedicated Draft SEIS Landing Page

A dedicated Draft SEIS web page linked to materials including the Draft SEIS, the executive summary (translated in English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, Arabic, and Korean), a fact sheet (see Section 2.3.1.3), technical reports, appendices, and instructions for submitting public comments. The online Draft SEIS included a search

function to help readers locate specific information. During the Draft SEIS comment period, a pop-up banner directed visitors to access the Draft SEIS landing page and public comment form.

During the comment period, the IBR Program website received 75,550 overall views and the dedicated Draft SEIS website received 33,118 views.

2.3.1.2 Printed Draft SEIS Document and Executive Summaries

Printed copies of the Draft SEIS were available for review at the IBR Program office in downtown Vancouver, as well as in Vancouver City Hall, the Vancouver Community Library, the Charles Jordan Community Center in North Portland, and the Portland Building. Additionally, printed copies of the [executive summary](#) were available for review at these locations in 11 languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, Arabic, and Korean.

2.3.1.3 Draft SEIS Fact Sheet

A [fact sheet](#) was developed as a reader-friendly resource and included a summary of the Draft SEIS, what is being studied, how to navigate the document, and how to submit public comments. The fact sheet was posted online and printed for in-person events. Content from the fact sheet was also translated into Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, Arabic and Korean.

2.3.1.4 Outreach Toolkits

The IBR Program team developed an outreach toolkit as a resource for agencies and organizations to share information about the Program and the public comment opportunity. This toolkit included body email text, a cover letter with links to the Program website and resources, and PDFs of fact sheets and comment forms. Leading up to and during the public comment period, emails with these toolkits were sent to agency partners .

2.3.1.5 Informational Videos

The IBR Program produced a total of 10 informational videos, including three long-form Draft SEIS videos and seven Draft SEIS related social videos. Collectively, these videos received 20,182 views during the comment period on social media and YouTube.

2.3.2 Notifications

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on September 20, 2024, compliant with NEPA requirements. In addition to the Notice of Availability, the IBR Program shared information about the Draft SEIS and comment period through a variety of mediums, as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Draft SEIS Comment Period Notifications at a Glance

Tactic	Reach
Program Mailers	2 mailers 91,000 addresses
Email Notifications	6 E-blasts 14,854 opens
Billboard	September 30 to November 18, 2024
Social media - organic	155 posts 4,146 engagements
Social media - paid	4 paid ad campaigns 17,481 engagements
Digital and Print Advertisements	20 ads, 8 radio stations, C-TRAN buses and TriMet stops 3,213,000+ estimated people reached
Earned media (unpaid mentions in third-party media outlets)	148 stories 2,000,000+ estimated people reached

2.3.2.1 Program Mailers

The IBR Program team developed two mailers for in-person distribution, one postcard and one flyer. Flyers and postcards contained information about the IBR Program, Draft SEIS, Section 106, and the public comment period. The mailers both included a Quick Response (QR) code that could be scanned to access the IBR Program website and further information. The postcard and flyer were sent to 91,000 addresses in the 97211, 97212, 97217, 97227, 98660, and 98661 zip codes. Postcards were distributed on September 13, 2024 (in English with in-language notices to visit the IBR Program website for more information), and a flyer was sent November 4, 2024 (in English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, and Chuukese).

2.3.2.2 Email Notifications

The IBR Program distributed six email notifications ahead of and during the public comment period to 7,143 newsletter subscribers. There were 14,854 opens across the six Draft SEIS specific emails (see Table 2).

Table 2. Draft SEIS Email Notifications

Date Distributed	Topics
August 13	August Newsletter: Pre-Draft SEIS public briefing

Date Distributed	Topics
September 9	September Newsletter: Draft SEIS comment period and in-person open houses
September 20	Draft SEIS release announcement and comment period open
October 9	Public hearing announcement
October 11	October Newsletter: In-person open houses and Section 106 Comment Period
October 18	Section 106 Online Open House and comment period announcement

A separate Section 106 comment period was held October 19 to November 18 and often co-advertised with the Draft SEIS comment period.

2.3.2.3 Billboard

To help reach regular bridge users including commuters and freight traffic, the IBR Program posted a billboard along I-5 from September 30 to November 18, 2024, notifying community members of the Draft SEIS comment period. The billboard, shown in Figure 1, was on Hayden Island on the west side of I-5, visible to motorists driving northbound on I-5.

Figure 1. Interstate 5 Billboard Advertising the Draft SEIS Comment Period



2.3.2.4 Social Media

The IBR Program team posted on social media leading up to and throughout the Draft SEIS comment period. Content was posted in nine languages.

The IBR Program posted 169 total organic (free, non-paid) posts between September 20 and November 18, 2024, across five platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, X [Twitter], and TikTok). These posts

Summary of Engagement

received 67,386 impressions (number of times content was displayed), 15,877 video views, and 4,437 engagements (number of times users interact with content). See Table 3 for more details.

Table 3. Organic Social Media

Platform	Total Posts	Engagements	Impressions	Video Views
LinkedIn	29	2,465	20,635	3,657
Facebook	31	787	10,523	2,618
Instagram	19	308	9,268	5,472
X (Twitter)	85	810	22,830	N/A
TikTok	5	67	4,130	4,130
TOTAL	169	4,437	67,386	15,877

The IBR Program also placed four paid advertising campaigns on social media, reaching 312,077 people with nearly 500,000 impressions. Paid advertisements received 17,481 engagements, including 8,267 link clicks. More details are included in Table 4.

Table 4. Paid Social Media

Platform	Run Dates	Reach	Engagements	Link Clicks
Facebook/Instagram	November 12-17	190,002	5,267	4,814
Facebook/Instagram	October 10-18	67,832	1,658	1,624
Facebook/Instagram (Video)	October 12-19	16,921	9,115	646
Facebook	October 10-17	37,322	1,441	1,183
TOTAL		312,077	17,481	8,267

2.3.2.5 Digital and Print Advertisements

Before and during the public comment period, the IBR Program team placed 19 print and digital advertisements, eight radio station spots (commercials), and ads on C-TRAN buses and at TriMet stops. The IBR Program also placed five translated ads. Collectively, IBR Program advertisements received over 3,213,000 hits. Details concerning digital and print advertisements are included in Table 5.

Table 5. Digital and Print Advertisements

Outlet	Placement	Run Dates
Portland Business Journal	Print and digital	9/20
The Oregonian	Print and digital	Between 9/20 and 9/29
Vancouver Business Journal	Digital	9/23
The Reflector	Print	9/23 and 9/30
Viet NNN <i>Published in Vietnamese</i>	Print	9/23 and 9/30
The Skanner	Print and digital	9/25
Portland Observer	Print and digital	9/25 and 10/9
Latino De Hoy <i>Published in Spanish</i>	Print	9/25 and 10/2
Street Roots	Print	9/25 and 10/2
Portland Chinese Times <i>Published in Traditional Chinese</i>	Print	9/27 and 10/4
The Columbian	Print and digital	9/28, 9/30 and 10/8
Asian Reporter	Print	10/7
C-TRAN	Bus inserts	9/20 through comment period
Intersection (TriMet)	Bus shelters and benches	9/30 through comment period
El Rey Radio <i>Published in Spanish</i>	Audio	40 spots
KBMS Radio	Audio	12 spots
KXRW Radio	Audio	Multiple spots throughout comment period
Slavic Family Radio <i>Published in Ukrainian and Russian</i>	Audio	5 spots
Portland-Area Radio Ads	Audio	Multiple spots throughout comment period

Outlet	Placement	Run Dates
98.7 The Bull	Audio	Multiple spots throughout comment period
Live 95.5	Audio	Multiple spots throughout comment period
101.9 Kink FM	Audio	Multiple spots throughout comment period
FM News 101 KXL	Audio	Multiple spots throughout comment period

2.3.2.6 Earned Media

The IBR Program tracked earned media, defined as unpaid mentions by third-party media outlets, during the Draft SEIS comment period. These media stories were an important part of the comprehensive effort to get the word out to the community about the public comment opportunity. To help generate earned media stories, the IBR Program issued a news release and held a press conference for local media outlets on September 20 to announce the publication of the Draft SEIS and promote the public comment period.

Between September 18 and November 19, 2024, the IBR Program team documented 148 news stories, op-eds, and reader letters published in local, regional, and national media outlets, including an op-ed piece published in *Portland Tribune* authored by Oregon Department of Transportation Director Kris Strickler. Local outlets generated most of the coverage during this two-month public comment period, with the Vancouver publication *The Columbian* alone tallying 19 articles, op-eds, and reader letters. Portland-area print and broadcast media provided the remainder of the coverage, with nine articles published based on the public comment period press release and at least 23 others stemming from the September 20 IBR press conference held at the IBR Program office in Vancouver. Table 6 lists a sample of representative articles and stories published during the Draft SEIS public comment period.

Table 6. Sample of Draft SEIS Articles and Stories (2024)

Date Published	Outlet	Title
September 20	Columbian	“Moment of Joy”: I-5 Bridge Replacement Environmental Impact Findings, Ask for Public Input
September 20	Washington State Standard	Replacing I-5 Bridge Will Aid Drivers, Displace Some Homeowners in WA and Oregon
September 20	OPB	Interstate Bridge Report Offers More Insight on Tolls, Construction, Travel Times

Date Published	Outlet	Title
September 20	KOIN	Officials Present I-5 Bridge Replacement Environmental Impact Findings, Ask for Public Input
September 20	KATU	Dozens of Homes, Businesses Could be Impacted by Interstate Bridge Replacement, Study Says
September 20	KGW	Interstate Bridge Replacement Team Seeks Public Comment on Draft Project Evaluation
September 20	Oregonian	Long-Awaited Environmental Report on Interstate Bridge Replacement Details Likely Climate Benefits, Underscores Displacement Concerns
September 20	DJC Oregon	Megaproject's Impact Document Now Receiving Public Comments
September 23	Seattle DJC	Draft SEIS Out for Replacement I-5 Bridge Over the Columbia
September 28	KGW	Interstate Bridge Replacement Concept Gets Photo-Realistic
September 30	The Reflector	New Interstate 5 Bridge Expected to Reduce Crashes, Traffic Congestion
October 1	Columbian	43 Residential Units, 33 Businesses in Washington and Oregon Could be Hit by I-5 Bridge Replacement
October 4	KOIN	Families Worried They'll Lose Homes Due to Ore-Wash I-5 Bridge Replacement
October 14	KGW	Virtual Flyover Videos Show Scale of Interstate Bridge Replacement
October 14	Columbian	Get a Bird's Eye View of Options for the I-5 Bridge Replacement
October 15	KGW	Vancouver Forum on Interstate Bridge Replacement Project Brings in Public Feedback
October 15	KOIN	Residents Speak Up on Early I-5 Bridge Replacement Plans
October 15	KPTV	New 3D Visuals Show What the I-5 Replacement Bridge Could Look Like
October 17	Columbian	Letter: Current Bridge Plan Makes Sense
October 29	Portland Tribune	Column: Keep Oregon Moving: Now is the Time to Weigh In On the Interstate Bridge

Date Published	Outlet	Title
November 5	Columbian	Letter: Get Behind Bridge Replacement
November 12	Willamette Week	Expert Says Traffic Modeling for Interstate Bridge Replacement is Wrong
November 18	OPB	Hayden Island Community Pushes to Be Heard as I-5 Bridge Replacement Heads Toward Reality
November 18	KOIN	Monday Marks Final Day for Public Comment on Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

2.3.3 Property Owner Coordination

The IBR Program distributed direct notifications to property owners whose properties were identified in the Draft SEIS as potentially subject to direct impacts (full, partial, or temporary).

2.3.3.1 Property Owner Letters

The IBR Program mailed letters to property owners to inform them of the upcoming Draft SEIS comment period, how comments would be collected and responded to, and what to expect in terms of communications about potential impacts to their property. Nearly 300 homes and businesses identified as potentially subject to direct impacts received a mailer. Letters were first mailed on September 16, 2024, in English, and were redistributed on October 5, 2024, in English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, and Chuukese.

2.3.3.2 Canvassing

In addition to property owner letters that were mailed in September and October, the IBR Program team canvassed a subset of properties identified in the Draft SEIS as potentially subject to direct impacts (full, partial, or temporary) if the property owners lived at the property address. A total of 73 households and businesses (53 in Washington and 20 in Oregon) met this criteria and were canvassed. Canvassing took place in early November 2024. The IBR Program team delivered printed copies of letters that were mailed in advance of the Draft SEIS comment period in September. Letters were translated into English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, Chuukese, as well as two additional languages, Arabic and Korean.

2.4 Engagement Activities

The IBR Program team conducted a variety of outreach activities to engage the public and equity priority communities (see Section 2.4.2). This outreach was designed to meet people where they are, provide information about the IBR Program and Draft SEIS document, and collect public comments.

2.4.1 Public Engagement

A high-level summary of public engagement before and during the Draft SEIS comment period is provided in Table 7, followed by more detailed descriptions of activities in subsequent sub-sections.

Table 7. Public Engagement at a Glance

Activity	Engagement
Tabling	8 events 491 interactions
Pre-Draft SEIS virtual public briefing and Q&A	2 events 80 live attendees
Draft SEIS virtual public briefing and Q&A	2 events 73 live attendees
In-person public hearings/open houses	2 events 167 attendees
Virtual public hearings	2 events 55 live attendees
Advisory Group meetings	11 meetings
Office hours	8 events (48 timeslots) 9 participants
Briefings and presentations	More than 50 presentations 550+ attendees

2.4.1.1 Tabling Events

The IBR Program team attended 14 community tabling events in 2024. In early 2024, the IBR Program team attended 6 community tabling events with preliminary information about the upcoming Draft SEIS release. During the summer and fall of 2024, the IBR Program team attended 8 tabling events and included information to notify community members about the Draft SEIS and comment period, described in Table 8.

At these eight events, staff distributed a variety of materials, including the Draft SEIS postcard mailers and Draft SEIS factsheet, as well as the *Bridge to the Future* and *Why Now?* factsheets that provide background information about the IBR Program. These resources provided clear, accessible information about the IBR Program’s progress, the Modified LPA, and program goals. Staff also encouraged attendees to participate in the public comment period and attend in-person and virtual public hearings, answered questions related to the IBR Program, and addressed concerns.

In addition to distributing informational materials, the tabling events allowed IBR Program staff to interact directly with community members, addressing a range of questions about construction timelines, workforce opportunities, and where to find information on the environmental impact of the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). At some events, bilingual support was available to ensure that all attendees could engage with the materials and have their questions answered. The events provided an important opportunity for the IBR Program team to connect with the public and encourage participation during the Draft SEIS comment period.

Table 8. Draft SEIS Tabling Events

Date	Event	Location	Total engagements
August 15	Downtown Vancouver Waterfront Concert Series <i>Spanish speaking staff present</i>	Vancouver, WA	167
August 15	Portland Summer Concert Series - Yankl Falk's Carpathian-Pacific Express	Portland, OR	16
August 21	Kenton Farmers Market	Portland, OR	39
August 24	Portland Summer Concert Series: Celebrating Black Arts & Culture	Portland, OR	16
September 14	Vietnamese Community of Clark County Moon Festival <i>Vietnamese speaking staff present</i>	Vancouver, WA	35
October 5	St. Johns Farmers Market	Portland, OR	79
October 19	Vancouver Ballet Folklórico Dia de los Muertos <i>Spanish speaking staff present</i>	Vancouver, WA	111
October 26	Downtown Vancouver Farmers Market <i>Spanish speaking staff present</i>	Vancouver, WA	28

2.4.1.2 Pre-Draft SEIS Virtual Public Briefing and Q&A Session

In order to ensure the community was prepared for the upcoming public comment period, the IBR Program team hosted two virtual public briefing webinars before the publication of the Draft SEIS: Tuesday, [August 20, 2024, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.](#) and [Saturday, August 24, 2024, 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.](#) The webinars were scheduled so attendees could participate either on the weekend or a weekday evening. The same content was shared at each webinar. Recordings were posted online.

Webinars were each scheduled for 1 hour and 30 minutes, with 1 hour dedicated to presenting information about the IBR Program, including the proposed Modified LPA being studied in the Draft

SEIS. The additional 30 minutes were dedicated to a moderated question and answer period. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and live closed captioning were provided for both events.

There were 58 total live attendees at the August 20 webinar, including 34 virtual participants and 24 concurrent YouTube viewers. There were also three interpreters available. Nineteen questions were received and answered. The recording had been viewed 186 times on YouTube as of December 2024.

There were 22 total live attendees, including 17 virtual participants and 5 concurrent YouTube viewers. There were also three interpreters available. Fourteen questions were received and answered. The recording had been viewed 118 times on YouTube as of December 2024.

2.4.1.3 Draft SEIS Virtual Public Briefing and Q&A Session

After the Draft SEIS public comment period started, the IBR Program team hosted two virtual public briefing webinars: [Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.](#) and [Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.](#) The webinars were scheduled so participants could attend during the evening on separate weeks and weeknights and the same content was shared at each webinar. Recordings were posted online.

Webinars were each scheduled for 1 hour and 30 minutes, with 1 hour dedicated to presenting the Modified LPA studied in the Draft SEIS and information about the findings of the analysis. The additional 30 minutes was dedicated to a moderated question and answer period. ASL interpretation and live closed captioning were provided for both events.

There were 35 total live attendees at the October 1 webinar, including 27 virtual participants and eight concurrent YouTube viewers. There were also three interpreters available. Seventeen questions were received and answered. The recording had been viewed 154 times on YouTube as of December 2024.

There were 38 total live attendees at the October 9 webinar, including 31 virtual participants and 7 concurrent YouTube viewers. There were also three interpreters available. Twelve questions were received and answered. The recording had been viewed 79 times on YouTube as of December 2024.

2.4.1.4 In-Person Public Hearings/Open Houses

The IBR Program hosted two in-person public hearings and open house events in October 2024 to engage the community on the Draft SEIS. These events allowed attendees to ask questions and provide public comments on paper or to a court reporter. The open houses featured various stations staffed by IBR Program staff and subject matter experts, each aligned with key aspects of the Draft SEIS. Participants could also view three-dimensional river crossing visualizations and access hard copies of the Draft SEIS document and executive summary. Both venues included large display boards, fact sheets, and video presentations, alongside dedicated stations for verbal and written public comments.

The first event was held on [Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.](#) at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. Over 110 people attended. Three court reporters (two virtual and one in person) were available to capture verbal statements. Spanish and ASL interpreters were available to assist attendees. A total of 25 written comments were submitted, and 14 evaluation and

demographics surveys were completed (five in person and nine electronic). For more information about evaluation surveys, see Section 2.4.3.

The second event took place on [Thursday, October 17, 2024, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.](#) at the Portland Expo Center in Portland, Oregon, with 57 attendees. Similar to the Vancouver event, the open house featured informational displays and video presentations, with subject matter experts available to answer questions. Two court reporters (one virtual and one in person) facilitated verbal comments, while attendees also had the opportunity to submit written public comments. Spanish and ASL interpreters were on hand for assistance. A total of 18 written comments were submitted, and 11 evaluation surveys were completed (six in person and five electronic) (see Section 2.4.3).

2.4.1.5 Virtual Public Hearings

The IBR Program hosted two virtual public hearings: [Saturday, October 26, 2024, 12:00–2:30 p.m.](#) and [Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 6:00–8:30 p.m.](#) The purpose of these events was to allow participants to share verbal public comment about the Draft SEIS with IBR Program staff and have it recorded by a court reporter. The IBR Program held the hearings via Zoom and livestreamed them via YouTube Live. Each meeting included ASL interpretation and closed captioning in both English and Spanish. The events were scheduled to allow opportunities to participate during weekends and weekdays.

During the event, presenters provided a brief overview of the Draft SEIS, including what was studied, where it was located online and how comments would be collected and responded to. The remainder of the time was reserved for public comment. A court reporter captured testimony and comments were entered into the official public record.

There were 16 total live attendees at the October 26 hearing, including 13 virtual participants and three concurrent YouTube viewers. There was also interpretation available. The IBR Program received one comment during this event. Participants included representatives from FHWA and local media outlets TVW Streaming and KPTV.

There were 39 total live attendees at the October 30 hearing, including 30 virtual participants and nine concurrent YouTube viewers. There was also interpretation available. The IBR Program received 23 comments during this event. Participants included representatives from FTA, FHWA and local media outlets TVW Streaming and KPTV.

2.4.1.6 Advisory Group Meetings

The IBR Program's advisory groups were involved in preparing for and conducting the Draft SEIS comment period. In July 2024, the IBR Program team shared the Draft SEIS engagement plan with Community Advisory Group (CAG), Equity Advisory Group (EAG), and Community Benefits Advisory Group (CBAG) to request their input. Members of the advisory groups provided feedback and questions, which were incorporated into the plan.

Additionally, the IBR Program team shared information and updates about the Draft SEIS comment period a total of 11 times at advisory group meetings ahead of and during the public comment period:

- CAG meetings on [August 8](#), [September 12](#), [October 10](#), and [November 14](#), 2024.
- EAG meetings on [September 16](#), [October 21](#), and [November 18](#), 2024.

- CBAG meetings on [September 26](#), [October 24](#), and [November 14](#), 2024.
- Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting on [October 21](#), 2024.

At the August 8 CAG meeting, IBR Program staff updated the CAG on the status of the Draft SEIS engagement plan, including revisions based on advisory group feedback received in July, and previewed content for the upcoming public briefings.

At the September 12 CAG and September 16 EAG meetings, IBR Program staff provided an overview of comment period outreach strategies and upcoming opportunities to provide comment. Questions and suggestions covered the accessibility of content, how public outreach would be evaluated, transparency in viewing comments as they are submitted, and engagement with community groups and media outlets to reach historically underserved populations.

During the October 10 CAG and October 21 EAG meetings, IBR Program staff presented on comment period outreach, upcoming comment opportunities, and key transportation, community, and environment findings. Questions and discussion focused on understanding findings, how best to maximize the impact of public comments, and what topics are appropriate for public comment. An expanded version of this content was also presented at the October 21 ESG meeting, with discussion focusing on how community members can comment on topics or mitigations not studied in the Draft SEIS and how responses to comments will be provided.

During the November 14 CAG meeting, IBR Program staff presented key Draft SEIS navigation findings, an overview of comment period engagement, and next steps. Questions and discussion focused on understanding findings and how information has been received by the public.

During the CBAG meetings on September 26, October 24, and November 14, IBR Program staff provided updates on the comment period, upcoming opportunities to participate, and next steps once the comment period ends. IBR Program staff also provided an update at the November 18 EAG meeting and answered questions about how engagement compares to similar projects.

2.4.1.7 Office Hours

The IBR Program offered 48 timeslots during eight office hour events during the public comment period: September 20, September 21, October 3, October 8, October 18, October 19, November 5, and November 7, 2024. Office hour events allowed community members an opportunity to meet with IBR Program team and subject matter experts for approximately 30 minutes to discuss a variety of topics, including the Draft SEIS findings and address questions. Office hours were scheduled for both weekdays and weekends and at various times of day to accommodate a range of schedules. The office hours were promoted throughout the public comment period.

Nine individuals participated in office hour sessions during the comment period. Common discussion topics included procurement and workforce, transit and light-rail, potential impacts to property owners, and traffic concerns. Staff hosting office hours encouraged participants to submit formal public comment on the Draft SEIS through one of the official avenues.

2.4.1.8 Briefings and Presentations

IBR Program staff attended and presented at over 50 different meetings and events held by local neighborhood associations, organizations and agencies throughout the public comment period. These briefings and presentations were offered in person and virtually to over 550 total attendees and ranged from a few minutes to over an hour.

IBR Program staff shared a general program overview, including the timeline, funding and tolling, Purpose and Need; the Modified LPA studied in the Draft SEIS; the findings of the Draft SEIS's analysis; and how to participate in the public comment period. Additionally, the IBR Program team presented information on other specific topics requested by the meeting organizers, such as contracting opportunities, community engagement efforts, and potential residential and business impacts.

Most presentations included time for questions and answers. Frequent questions concerned bridge and interchange access during construction and construction timelines; light-rail transit (LRT) and bus transit; tolling; bridge designs and river clearance; active transportation; and potential near- and long-term construction impacts. At the end of the presentation a QR code was available for attendees to scan and take the community engagement evaluation on their mobile device. Additional information such as a copy of the presentation slides, IBR business cards, and Draft SEIS fact sheets and flyers were shared with participants after the presentations, along with resources to provide public comment.

In addition to these briefings, IBR Program staff presented an overview of the Draft SEIS findings at a Bi-State Legislative Committee meeting in October. The Bi-State Legislative Committee consists of eight legislative members from each state (the Joint Interim Committee on the Interstate 5 Bridge in Oregon and the Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action Committee in Washington) that meet to provide joint legislative oversight to the IBR Program. Legislators asked questions on various topics, including auxiliary lanes, river navigation, modeling, and cost estimate/funding.

2.4.2 Equitable Engagement

The IBR Program conducted specific engagement efforts to connect with equity priority communities, as defined in the IBR Program's [Equity Framework](#), and ensure accessibility of Draft SEIS materials. Equity priority communities include Black, Indigenous, and people of color; tribal governments (federally recognized tribes); people with disabilities; communities with limited English proficiency; persons with lower incomes; individuals and families experiencing houselessness; immigrants and refugees; young people; and older adults.

2.4.2.1 Partnership with Community Engagement Liaisons

The IBR Program partnered with CELs to increase engagement with equity priority communities during the public comment period. CELs are trusted members of their communities with strong networks and relationships. CELs encouraged community members to engage with the Draft SEIS materials, attend the in-person open house events (see Section 2.4.1.4), and participate in small group discussions (facilitated by the CELs). A total of 46 participants attended the open houses and worked one-on-one with CELs at the events to understand, ask questions, and comment in their preferred language. Additionally, fifteen CELs engaged a total of 180 community members in 43 small group

discussions during the comment period, described in Table 9. At both the open houses and small group discussions, CELs helped approximately 200 community members complete both printed and online engagement surveys (see Section 2.4.3).

Table 9. Small Group Discussions Led by Community Engagement Liaisons

Equity Priority Community	Number of Events	Number of Participants
Chinese	13	58
Vietnamese	8	39
Filipino (Tagalog)	7	24
Russian	2	9
People with disabilities	2	6
African/Immigrant	1	5
Somali	1	5
Arabic	1	5
Slavic	1	5
Young people	1	4
Older adults	1	4
Indigenous/Tribal	1	4
Korean	1	4
Chuukese	1	3
Latinx	1	3
Black	1	2

Feedback gathered during CEL engagement, listed in no particular order, included:

- **Support for** improved traffic flow and transit options; multimodal accessibility; safety improvements; and low-income toll discounts.
- **Questions about** toll payment and discounts, especially for people with low incomes; Program components and alternatives; how old bridge will be used; and when the IBR Program will be completed.
- **Concerns about** cost of tolls, especially for low-income populations; traffic diversion and impacts during and after construction; displacement of businesses and residents; duration of

construction; transit in Washington attracting houseless individuals; safety and usability of the bridge after a large seismic event; and whether comments would actually be read.

- **Misinformation or misunderstanding of project:** single-direction tolling and closing the bridge during construction.

CELs also asked participants to complete evaluation forms at the end of small group discussions (see Section 2.4.3). CELs reported that digital and print forms were both helpful, though some participants had questions about why the evaluation form was being used, expressed concern about sharing identifying information, and found the survey to be cumbersome or inaccessible for folks who are blind or using screen readers.

The IBR Program provided compensation for community members who participated in activities facilitated by CELs, in the form of physical or digital gift cards of \$35. A total of 223 gift cards were distributed to participants during the comment period; four people opted out of receiving compensation.

2.4.2.2 Community Based Organization Engagement

The IBR Program regularly coordinates with CBOs serving equity priority communities in Oregon and Washington. At the start of the Draft SEIS comment period, the IBR Program shared the outreach toolkit (see Section 2.3.1.4) with a mailing list of 141 CBOs to spread the word about the Draft SEIS comment period. This mailing list includes CBOs that serve people living with a disability; Black, Indigenous, and people of color; people experiencing houselessness; youth; older adults; immigrant, refugee, and people with limited English proficiency; people with lower incomes; and active transportation users. IBR Program staff also made direct phone calls to CBOs who were previous recipients of CBO mini-grants to share information about the IBR Program and co-host community listening sessions and community forums. Individual email outreach to these CBOs were also sent on September 13 and September 20, 2024.

2.4.2.3 Translation and Accessibility

The IBR Program routinely provides translation, accessibility, and interpretation services to ensure that Program information is accessible to a wide audience.

LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR WRITTEN MATERIALS

The IBR Program translates vital materials to ensure accessibility. At the start of the Draft SEIS comment period, the language access plan identified 10 languages based on demographics in the program area: English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, and Chuukese. During the Draft SEIS comment period, the IBR Program identified a need to update the language access plan. Through the course of this update, the IBR Program determined that translation into Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, and Chuukese were no longer necessary, and added two additional languages for translation, Arabic and Korean, for an updated total of eight languages.

In order to provide the greatest access, the IBR Program translated the Draft SEIS comment form and Draft SEIS executive summary into 11 languages (English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese,

Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Arabic, and Korean). However, the IBR Program did not provide Chuukese translation for these materials as it is primarily an oral language and there were significant time and cost challenges required for translation.

The November 4, 2024 IBR Program mailers and October 5, 2024 property owner letters were delivered in the original ten languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Ukrainian, Tagalog, and Chuukese. The property owner letters were also translated into Korean and Arabic for November canvassing efforts.

The IBR Program website, including the Draft SEIS sub-page, included automatic translation into English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Ukrainian, and Chuukese until November 4, 2024. After November 4, 2024, the automatic translation languages were changed to the updated eight IBR Program languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Arabic, and Korean.

The IBR Program also provides additional language and interpretation support upon request. Informational materials included a phone number, website, and email address for translation requests.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

Draft SEIS materials on the IBR Program website, including the Draft SEIS, executive summaries, fact sheets, appendices, and technical reports, were remediated for ADA compliance and screen-reader accessibility.

However, some appendices and technical reports contained historical graphics and roll maps that were not possible to remediate. To address this issue, the IBR Program included tags, which could be read by screen readers or assistive technology, with instructions on how to obtain information about the visuals. The roll maps were tagged with links to an audio description of the maps. Remediation of the IBR Program area roll maps was available upon request. Other sections were tagged with a note to contact the IBR Program directly at info@interstatebridge.org for accessibility assistance. If assistance was requested, the IBR Program would provide a subject matter expert who could explain the content and graphics.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

ASL interpretation was available at online meetings, including pre-Draft SEIS public briefings, Draft SEIS public briefings, virtual public hearings, and advisory group meetings. Closed captioning was also provided in English for advisory group meetings, public briefings and public hearings. Participants could change the language of the English closed captioning through Zoom's auto-translate feature if needed. CELs provided in-language interpretation services in small group discussions and in one-on-one conversations with community members.

Community members could also request interpretation in other languages in advance of a given meeting by calling the phone number specified in the meeting announcement at least 48 hours in advance.

IN-LANGUAGE ADVERTISING

To reach culturally specific groups in the IBR Program area, five translated ads were run (see Section 2.3.2.5):

- **Vietnamese:** print ad in *Viet NNN*
- **Traditional Chinese:** print ad in the *Portland Chinese Times*
- **Spanish:**
 - print ad in *Latino de Hoy*
 - radio ad on the El Rey station
- **Ukrainian and Russian:** radio ad on Slavic Family Radio

Translated advertisements helped to ensure non-English speaking communities were aware of the opportunity to engage with the Draft SEIS and participate in the public comment period.

2.4.3 Engagement Evaluation Survey

The IBR Program team developed an engagement evaluation survey, which was shared with participants at the in-person open houses and CEL engagement events. The engagement summaries gathered demographic information as well as feedback from community members about the effectiveness of engagement events and how participants would prefer to be engaged in the future. The engagement survey received a total of 311 engagement and demographic responses, approximately 200 of which resulted from CEL engagement efforts (see Section 2.4.2.1).

Key takeaways include:

- Two-thirds of respondents were attending their first IBR Program event.
- CELs, emails, and word of mouth were the most popular ways people heard about the engagement event they attended.
- Most people felt the events were interesting and relevant, IBR Program staff was welcoming, their comments and questions were addressed, and they would consider attending a future event.
- Seventy-two percent of respondents indicated materials provided them with the information they needed and 90% indicated that materials were accessible.
- The most popular methods for getting information related to the IBR Program were email, social media, and CELs.

Full responses to the engagement evaluation survey, including demographics, can be found in Appendix A.

Appendix A

ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

The Program team developed an engagement evaluation survey, which was shared with participants at the in-person open houses and CEL engagement events. The engagement survey received a total of 311 engagement and demographic responses, approximately 200 of which resulted from CEL engagement efforts.

Table A-1 documents responses to questions about the effectiveness of engagement events and how participants would prefer to be engaged in the future.

Table A-2 documents the responses to the survey question asking about participant’s zip codes. We received 197 responses to this question from a total of 59 zip codes, including 37 Oregon zip codes and 22 Washington zip codes.

Table A-3 documents responses to the demographic questions in the survey.

Table A-1. Engagement Survey Responses

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
1. Was this your first time attending an IBR engagement event?	Yes	66%	201
	No	34%	103
2. How did you hear about the event?	CELS	27%	84
	IBR email	22%	67
	Email from an organization	22%	67
	Directly from a friend, neighbor, or family member	20%	61
	News story	19%	59
	Community event	11%	33
	Other social media	9%	27
	IBR newsletter	8%	26
	IBR website	5%	17
	IBR social media	5%	17
	Strongly disagree	9%	27

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
3a. Information shared during the event felt interesting or relevant	Disagree	9%	28
	Neither agree or disagree	13%	39
	Agree	21%	62
	Strongly Agree	47%	140
3b. IBR staff was welcoming	Strongly disagree	8%	23
	Disagree	7%	20
	Neither agree or disagree	16%	44
	Agree	14%	41
	Strongly Agree	55%	153
3c. My comments/questions were adequately addressed	Strongly disagree	21%	58
	Disagree	7%	19
	Neither agree or disagree	14%	40
	Agree	15%	41
	Strongly Agree	43%	121
3d. I would consider participating in a future IBR event	Strongly disagree	7%	21
	Disagree	5%	14
	Neither agree or disagree	10%	30
	Agree	19%	57
	Strongly Agree	59%	174
4. Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience engaging with the IBR Program?	Strongly dissatisfied	14%	42
	Dissatisfied	10%	29
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17%	50
	Satisfied	17%	50
	Strongly satisfied	43%	129

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
5. Did the materials provide you with the information you needed?	Yes	72%	214
	No	28%	82
6. Were the materials accessible?	Yes	90%	257
	No	10%	29
7. How do you prefer to get information related to the IBR Program?	Social media	43%	34
	Newsletter or emails directly from the Program	35%	28
	Email from an organization	34%	27
	CELS	32%	25
	Directly from a friend, neighbor or family member	15%	12
	News story	11%	9

Table A-2. Engagement Survey Zip Codes

Number of Responses per Zip Code	Zip Codes
19	97217
10	97030, 98683
9	97236
8	98607, 98665, 98682, 98684
7	98663
6	98661, 98686
5	97015, 97229, 98660
4	97006, 97211, 98664
3	97086, 97123, 97212, 97220, 97233, 98604, 98685

Number of Responses per Zip Code	Zip Codes
2	97024, 97068, 97080, 97124, 97133, 97202, 97203, 97209, 97216, 97224, 97230, 97266, 98642, 98662, 98671
1	97003, 97007, 97023, 97053, 97089, 97113, 97201, 97206, 97214, 97221, 97225, 97239, 97306, 98502, 98600, 98606, 98626, 98632, 98674, 99208

Table A-3. Engagement Survey Demographics

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
What is your gender identity (how do you define yourself)?	Male	47%	93
	Female	48%	95
	Prefer not to answer	4%	8
	Gender not listed here	1%	2
Do you have a disability that limits one or more major life activities, whether temporary, permanent, mitigated, or unmitigated?	Yes	10%	22
	No	84%	177
	Prefer not to answer	5%	11
General Ethnic identification categories (click as many as apply)	Asian	44%	93
	Caucasian	40%	85
	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	5
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%	3
	Black or African American	1%	2
	Prefer not to disclose	9%	19
	Other	4%	8
Country of Birth	USA	50%	113
	China	10%	22
	Philippines	9%	21

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
	England	1%	3
	Canada	1%	2
	Germany	0.5%	1
	Prefer not to disclose	1%	3
	Other	27%	60
What is your marital status?	Single	22%	46
	Married	61%	129
	In a domestic partnership	5%	10
	Divorced	4%	8
	Widowed	3%	7
	Prefer not to disclose	5%	11
Language spoken at home (click as many as apply)	English	81%	184
	Traditional Chinese	14%	32
	Simplified Chinese	11%	25
	Tagalog	7%	16
	Vietnamese	5%	11
	Spanish	2%	4
	Russian	1%	2
	Chuukese	1%	2
	Ukrainian	0.5%	1
	Prefer not to disclose	2%	4
	Other	6%	14
Age	Under 18	0.5%	1
	18-24	1%	3

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
	25-34	9%	21
	35-44	15%	33
	45-54	19%	42
	55-64	17%	38
	65-79	29%	66
	80+	7%	16
	Prefer not to disclose	3%	6
Do you identify with any of the following religions (select all that apply)?	Christianity	33%	73
	No religion	24%	52
	Buddhism	8%	18
	Judaism	3%	7
	Inter/non-denominational	3%	7
	Native American	2%	5
	Islam	1%	2
	Hinduism	0.5%	1
	Prefer not to disclose	15%	34
	Other	19%	41
What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?	Less than high school	4%	7
	High school graduate	11%	22
	Completed some college	10%	19
	Associate's degree	9%	18
	Bachelor's degree	32%	63
	Master's degree	11%	22
	Graduate or professional degree	9%	18

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
	PhD/MD – doctorate degree	7%	14
	Prefer not to disclose	9%	17
What is your approximate average household income?	Less than \$25,000	5%	11
	\$25,000-\$49,000	15%	33
	\$50,000-\$74,999	15%	33
	\$75,000-\$99,000	10%	22
	\$100,000-\$124,999	13%	29
	\$125,000-\$149,999	5%	11
	\$150,000-\$174,999	5%	12
	\$175,000-\$199,999	1%	3
	\$200,000 and up	4%	9
	Prefer not to disclose	27%	59
How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	1	20%	46
	2	40%	90
	3	10%	23
	4	12%	27
	5	5%	12
	6	2%	5
	7	1%	3
	8 or more	1%	2
	Prefer not to disclose	8%	17
How do you typically travel? (select all that apply)	Vehicle	89%	204
	Walk	21%	49
	Transit	14%	31

Question	Response	Percentage of Responses	Number of Responses
	Bike	13%	29
	E-bike/e-scooter	8%	18
	Prefer not to disclose	1%	2
	Other	6%	13