

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #28

Date and Time: Thursday, August 10th, 2023 / 4:00 – 6:00pm

Location: Zoom Meeting and YouTube Livestream

Number of concurrent YouTube viewers: 80

OUTCOMES

- CAG members gain a better understanding of design considerations for Lower Vancouver & Evergreen.
- CAG members receive an update on community engagement activities to date and those planned for the next 3 months.
- CAG members receive an update on future meeting topics.

WELCOME

- Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, CAG Co-Facilitator, welcomed CAG members to the meeting and introduced Lynn Valenter and Ed Washington, CAG Co-Chairs, and reminded members to center the space, welcomed members and previewed the agenda. Members were then encouraged to introduce themselves and share if you are a night-owl or early bird.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Frank Green, Assistant Program Administrator, shared several updates on the program:

- Oregon State Legislature: Governor Kotek signed House Bill 5005 that provides funding from the Oregon Legislature.
- Bi-State Legislative Committee: This committee has eight (8) members from each legislature, and they were given an update on what's been going on since last year as they have not met since before the two state's legislative sessions.
- Recent Presentations:
 - Oregon Transportation Committee & Washington State Transportation Committee: The potential rates associated with tolling were discussed.
 - We continue to meet with the community in efforts to keep everyone informed and below are some of the recent communities to receive presentations:
 - NW Industrial Business Association
 - CREDC Downtown Stakeholders
 - Washington County Transportation Task Force
 - Vancouver Transportation & Mobility Commission
 - Lower Columbia River Harbor Safety Committee

- Office Hours: Gives the community an opportunity to sit down with program staff to ask more detailed questions. You can sign up on the [webpage](#).

IBR AERIAL ROLL MAP

Casey Liles, IBR Design Team, showed the aerial roll map. The focus was the potential program investments in the Lower Vancouver and Evergreen areas.

Discussion Questions:

- Question (33:08) “If you are on I-5 north of Mill Plain but heading south, that lane your cursor is going over, is that similar to what’s been done to southbound 205 to take the Mill Plain exit?”
 - Answer (33:30) “So the exit on Mill Plain would feel virtually the same as it does today. There is some work north of that some investments between SR 14 and Mill Plain. The proposed braided ramp system would help with traffic issues.”
- Question (37:17) “If we can talk about the park and rides for a moment, not the locations so much, but philosophically. It feels like in the early discussions that we didn’t want park and rides in downtown Vancouver because it wasn’t a good use of prime real estate. I know we also had discussion regarding the proximity and density of low-income and people who use transit to the station. Can you refresh all of our understanding?”
 - Answer (38:25) “There are two potential park and rides being studied in NEPA. There is a possibility of no park and rides or even maybe one park and ride at either Vancouver Waterfront or Evergreen.”
 - Answer (40:30) “The key thing to take away is we have heard some of the comments from our partners and the city and our transit partners with C-Tran with the question if we need park and rides. We are looking to understand what might park and ride mean to ridership. We want to do everything we can to provide the option for people to use transit. We are studying these locations in the Draft SEIS.”
- Question (42:21) “The thin brown line is the edge of construction, is that right?”
 - Answer (42:40) “The thin brown line that’s on the outside is the proposed study area of permanent improvements. In NEPA we believe the permanent investments fall within that study line. However, this line does not show temporary improvements impact lines of the area.”
- Question (43:41) “The dash purple line east and west of the freeway.”
 - Answer (43:57) “The dash line describes a potential underpass impact. In the Draft SEIS you will see what buildings will be impacted.”

- Question (50:00) “The terminal station of the max overlaps the southbound freeway itself and seems to constrict the lanes. I assume that it’s either below or above the freeway itself. It’s important for us to see some draft sections and elevations of these things to get a real view of what we’re talking about and seeing.”
 - Answer (51:07) “The draft sections will be something that is coming once we get more into designs. You are right, it’s right over the top of the collective distributor lanes.”

URBAN DESIGN

Nolan Lienhart & Lilly Djanants, IBR Urban Design, provided the update on the urban design focus areas and urban design scales. The character of lower Vancouver west of I-5 in developments are the Waterfront development, Main Street, Esther Short Park, Mixed-use Development. The character of lower Vancouver east of I-5 in development are the Renaissance Trail, Landbridge, Fort Vancouver, and Historic Pearson Airfield.

Discussion question to think about:

- Which specific themes and/or values should inform the urban design of the focus areas?
- Are we understanding the character and relevant elements in your community that the IBR program should respond to?

Discussion Comments:

- Comment (1:29:55) “On the slide Integration of Arts and Culture, when you show the colors and the neon trees, I think it’s so cool and hope we can incorporate that kind of thing into this. Because I think they are attractive and would go there to see them.”
- Comment (1:32.:13) “I really like these designs they look great I’m excited. The only concern I have is we have seen other examples of bridges like this and it’s not really inviting and not safe. It’s not just the design but the cooperation with the city of Vancouver, their police department and so forth. Finding a way to make it more inviting including retail space, meeting space, activities, events.”
- Comment (1:33:18) “I don’t want to speak for Vancouver, I think these ideas are fantastic and need to be dived into thoroughly. You forgot to have this conversation about this with Hayden Island and Marine Drive. We need this same thinking on the Oregon side.”
- Comment (1:353:07) “I just want to mention one place in Oregon Duckworth Dock we have special Wednesday meetings where people are swimming in the Willamette. I was wondering if we could do the same with Columbia and study if it’s doable with Columbia.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bryan Stebbins, IBR Community Engagement Team, presented what the community have been discussing during recent engagement listed below:

- Vancouver Pride
- Vancouver Farmers Market
- Vancouver Sunday Concert Series
- "Rae Gordon" Portland Summer Free For All
- "We Outside" Portland Summer Free For All
- Eastside Community Picnic
- Kenton Farmers Market
- Upcoming Community Engagement
 - Neighborhood Association Presentations
 - IBR staff office hours: Just Launched!
 - Bridgeton Summer Picnic
 - Bridge Pedal
 - Vancouver Peace & Justice Fair
 - MLK Dream Run
 - Vancouver Farmers Market
 - Mini-grant partnerships with CBOs: Just launched and accepting applications until September 10, 2023.

NEXT PROGRAM MEETINGS:

- Equity Advisory Group – August 21, 2023
- Community Advisory Group – September 14, 2023
- Equity Advisory Group – September 18, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment

ATTENDEES

CAG Members

Attendees	Organization
Ed Washington	CAG Co-Chair
Irina Phillips	At-large community member
Lynn Valenter	CAG Co-Chair
Sam Kim	At-large community member
Brooke Pillsbury	Clark College
Darcy Hoffman	Workforce SW WA
Andrew Hoan	President/CEO – Portland Business Alliance
Tom Hickey	Human Services Council
Jana Jarvis	At-large community member
Martha Wiley	At-large community member
Tom Sandhwar	At-large community member

Facilitators and Presenters

Attendees	Organization
Frank Green	IBR Assistant Program Administrator
Bryan Stebbins	IBR Community Engagement Team
Lisa Keohokalole Schauer	IBR CAG Co-Facilitator
Johnell Bell	IBR CAG Co-Facilitator

August 10, 2023

Attendees	Organization
Casey Liles	IBR Design Team
Nolan Lienhart	IBR Urban Design
Lilly Djanians	IBR Urban Design

Additional Participants

29 members of the public, partner agency staff, and the IBR team viewed the meeting via the Zoom webinar and the YouTube livestream during the meeting.

MEETING RECORDING AND MATERIALS

Meeting Recording

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FITJLL_uF30

Meeting Materials

<https://www.interstatebridge.org/get-involved-folder/calendar/cag-august-10-2023-meeting/>