

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-5206, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING METRO COUNCIL'S VALUES, OUTCOMES, AND ACTIONS STATEMENT FOR THE I-5 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Date: November 15, 2021
Department: Planning, Development, and Research
Meeting Date: January 6, 2021
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Presenter(s): Malu Wilkinson, Investment Areas Manager, Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara, Investment Areas Project Manager
Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The I-5 Bridge Replacement Program (IBRP) is a bi-state effort to advance the Interstate 5 Bridge replacement over the Columbia River. The project is a regional priority as identified in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and the current effort is building on the previous work undertaken as part of the Columbia River Crossing project. The Columbia River Crossing project received National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in the form of a Record of Decision (ROD) in 2011. IBRP is a restart of that effort that must address the current needs and values of the region. Current project work is focused on reevaluating the project components to account for changes since the ROD in the region's physical, regulatory and policy realms. This work includes reevaluating the project scope, schedule, and budget; reevaluating permits, updating the finance plan, and reengaging key stakeholders and the public.

Metro is participating in the IBRP as a Participating Agency in the NEPA planning process. Metro Council and Metro staff participate in the IBRP Executive Steering Group, Equity Advisory Group, and staff level groups. Metro Council's statement on desired values and outcomes will provide clear direction to Metro project participants. Staff prepared a statement on Metro Council's Values, Outcomes and Actions (VOA) for the IBRP with direction from the Metro Council. The document outcomes and values are intended to provide guidance and shape input from Metro staff to the IBRP throughout the process. The VOA document clearly lays out Metro Council's desires for the IBRP.

The proposed resolution would adopt **Exhibit B: Metro Council's Values, Outcomes, and Actions for the I-5 Bridge Replacement Program**. This document was previously discussed by Metro Council in January, May, and October 2021 and reflects Council feedback from each of those discussions. In addition, the current VOA draft includes minor edits to reflect the Equity Framework developed by the IBRP Equity Advisory Committee. These edits clarify outcomes to improve equity for BIPOC and other equity priority communities through concrete strategies around workforce equity and meaningful engagement as well as a call for engaging the Committee on Racial Equity (CORE) in its advisory role to the Metro Council.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The Metro Council identified a number of policy outcomes in the VOA document. The outcomes are listed in the attached document and reflect four key values:

- Advancing racial equity
- Affordability and economic prosperity
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality

- Engaging stakeholders through transparent and inclusionary decision making process

ACTIONS REQUESTED

Approve Resolution No. 21-5206 For the Purpose of Adopting the Final I-5 Bridge Replacement Program Values, Outcomes and Actions.

PUBLIC INPUT

The VOA document reflects public input into the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan that prioritized racial equity, climate, congestion, and safety for the region as well as recent input to the IBRP from the IBRP Equity Advisory Group.

The City of Vancouver laid out its priorities by formally adopting a resolution in support of replacing the Interstate 5 bridge in July 2021. The resolution discusses Vancouver's values around climate and equity goals, seismic resiliency, high capacity transit, urban design and livability, and mobility including tolling.

KNOWN SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

None.

ANTICIPATED EFFECTS

The VOA document will clarify Metro Council's values and desired outcomes and actions, provide guidance to Metro staff as it participates in the IBRP, and clearly articulate to the IBR Program what the Metro Council needs to support the program as it moves forward.

Attachments

Exhibit A – Resolution No. 21-5206

Exhibit B – Metro Council's Values, Outcomes, and Actions for the I-5 Bridge Replacement Program