

I-5 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (IBRP)

Date: December 29, 2020
Department: Planning & Development
Meeting Date: January 12, 2021
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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 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 NEPA approval for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in the form of a Record of Decision (ROD). IBRP is a restart of that effort which must address the current needs and values of the region. Key items include reevaluating the purpose and need for the project, and the related values and vision statement originally developed in 2005, as well as reevaluating permits, developing of a finance plan, reengaging key stakeholders and the public, and the reevaluating of scope, schedule and budget.

Metro is participating in the IBRP as a Participating Agency in the NEPA planning process. Metro Council and Metro staff participate in the I5BR Executive Steering Group, Equity Advisory Group, and staff level group. Alignment of Metro Council on desired values and outcomes will provide clear direction to Metro project participants and Council when considering project elements shaped by the process. To further that direction, staff prepared a discussion draft list of values and desired outcomes for the IBRP. These outcomes and values will provide guidance and shape input from Metro staff to the IBRP throughout the process. This may be especially helpful as the IBRP reviews the previous Purpose and Need and Values and Vision statements from the Columbia River Crossing Environmental Impact Statement.

Staff will provide an update on the IBRP program and a presentation on the Discussion Draft Values, Outcomes, and Actions Paper which includes:

- overarching core values consistent with Metro's goals;
- a list of expected project outcomes for each value that will result in community and regional benefits;
- a list of specific actions that could be recommended for incorporation as part of

the project scope, schedule, or process.

ACTION REQUESTED

The action requested by staff is for Metro Council to provide input and feedback on the discussion draft paper of values, outcomes, and requested actions to guide the work of Metro Council and Metro staff on IBRP over the course of the next several years.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The draft paper reflects the goals, objectives, and principles in the Regional Transportation Plan, Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, and Climate Smart Strategy.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Are there additional or different values that should be reflected?
- Are there additional or different outcomes that should be incorporated to promote a transparent and inclusionary decision-making process?
- Are there additional or different actions that should be recommended?

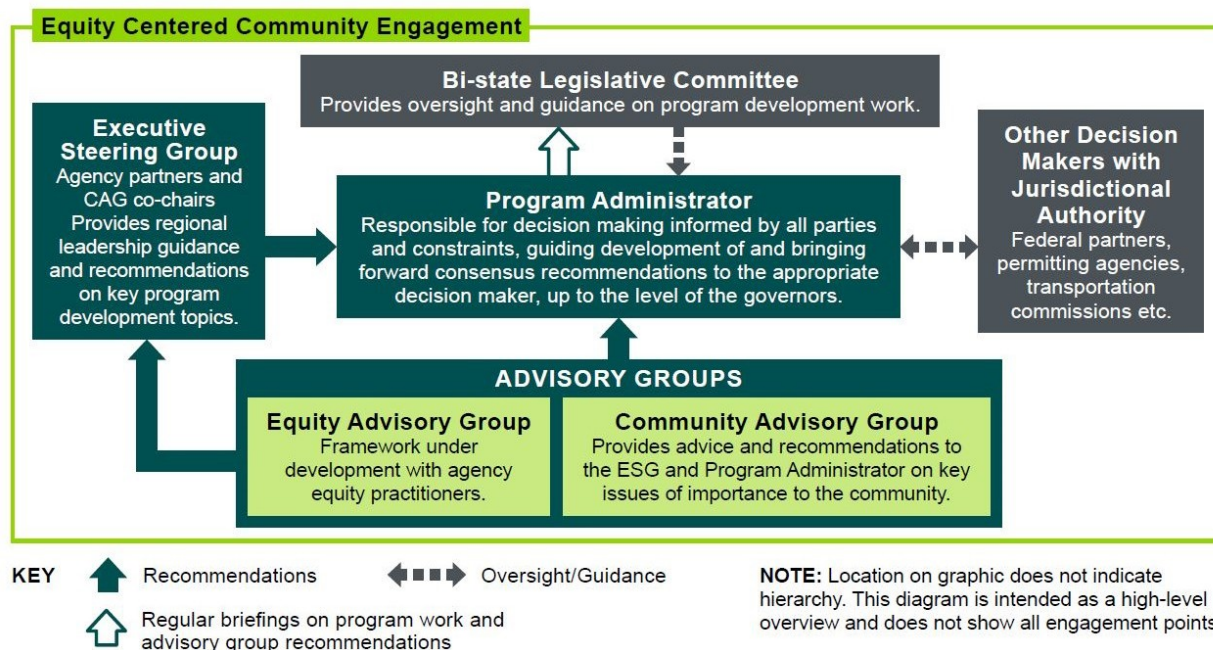
POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

The draft values, outcomes and actions paper will provide a policy framework to guide future decisions of Metro Council and Metro staff.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The IBRP is underway with many steps taken since last June 2020. The program has created an Executive Steering Group, a Bi-state Legislative Committee, and is in the process of creating both a Community Advisory Group, and an Equity Advisory Group.

Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Decision Development Framework



Source: Interstate Bridge Progress Report December 2020 ODOT and WSDOT

The ESG includes regional leadership from the ten bi-state partner agencies with a direct delivery or operational role, as well as two community representatives. At the November 30, 2020 ESG kickoff meeting part 2, the ESG adopted the ESG charter. The ESG membership includes the following representatives:

- Oregon Department of Transportation: Kris Strickler, Director
- Washington State Department of Transportation: Roger Millar, Secretary
- TriMet: Doug Kelsey, General Manager
- C-TRAN: Shawn Donaghy, CEO
- Oregon Metro: Lynn Peterson, Council President
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council: Scott Hughes, Board Chair
- City of Portland: Ted Wheeler, Mayor
- City of Vancouver: Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor
- Port of Portland: Kristen Leonard, Chief Public Affairs Officer
- Port of Vancouver: Julianna Marler, CEO
- Interim Community Advisory Group Co-chair (WA): Lynn Valenter
- Interim Community Advisory Group Co-chair (OR): Ed Washington

At the Bi-state Legislative Committee meeting on December 2, 2020, the IBRP team provided a progress report to the Bi-state Legislative Committee including a conceptual finance plan that was based on the previous scope of the Columbia River Crossing project.

The IBRP is reevaluating how to solve issues with the I-5 Bridge while building on past efforts. Major project elements to be completed in the next five years include:

- Completing the federal environmental review process
- Obtaining necessary federal, state and local permits
- Finalizing project design for all modes
- Developing a finance plan
- Securing adequate funding
- Completing right-of-way acquisition
- Advertising for construction

More immediate milestones that will be completed and brought to the Bi-state Legislative Committee include:

- December 2020: endorse conceptual finance plan and community engagement plan (completed)
- March 2021: guidance on vision and values and purpose and need
- May 2021: endorse vision and values and purpose and need statements, provide feedback on approach for Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) plan
- June 2021: guidance on initial range of transit alternatives and river crossing alternatives, guidance on SDEIS finance plan

An important and upcoming decision point in the project will be determining if and how the Purpose and Need statement should be updated, before kicking of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) process. Metro staff submitted written comments to the I5BR project team on the importance of elevating racial equity, reducing greenhouse gases, travel demand management, and right-sizing considerations into the Purpose and Need statement. Completing a Values, Outcomes, and Actions Paper for this program will further clarify Metro's values and guide elected officials, project leaders, and staff in our efforts.