

I-5 Rose Quarter Project: Values, Outcomes, and Actions

Value: Advancing racial equity and committing to restorative justice

OUTCOMES:

- Institutional leadership demonstrates an explicit commitment to restorative justice.
- A community-led visioning process elevates the voices of and benefits historically harmed and marginalized communities.
- Connectivity within neighborhoods and to job centers is increased, air quality and noise are improved, and active, safe, and usable spaces are created in the Albina community.
- Community stability and value are restored and pathways are paved for wealth generation in the Albina community in both the short and long-term.
- The wealth that was taken from the historic Albina community due to the construction of I-5 is recognized and the impacts of development of the Moda Center, Coliseum, and Convention Center are acknowledged.
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) opportunities are maximized at every phase of the construction project to gain jobs and address specific minority contracting needs in Portland.

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- Coordinate with the Albina Vision Community Investment plan (funded by a Metro grant) to take into account the land value created by this project and the urban design features to realize the Albina Vision.
- Appoint a landscape design team to inform a community-led decision-making process on highway cover design to assist and improve development opportunities in the Albina community and avoid recreating unsafe spaces (e.g., area south of Moda Center).
- Set a new standard for State design and contracting practices for local minority-owned contractors and small businesses that incorporates prime-contractor development programs, workforce development opportunities, anti-displacement and restorative community building investment, and wealth creation and land ownership opportunities.
- Establish a committee to oversee implementation of the DBE contracting process.

Value: Increasing multi-modal mobility and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

OUTCOMES:

- A more efficient transportation system is achieved that improves traffic flow of the highway, manages demand with congestion pricing, and improves and increases multi-modal mobility in the project area.
- Economic growth is enhanced by capitalizing on opportunities for supporting goods movement reliability within the statewide network.
- Connectivity of the local street network is enhanced, particularly for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian users.
- Air quality is improved and impacts to human health are minimized in the project area, particularly for communities of color disproportionately impacted by air toxins.
- Financial strategies maximizing transportation resources and contributing to traffic management are implemented as part of the project.

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- Synchronize the project timeline with the I-5 tolling program, so that any analysis of traffic and greenhouse gas emission benefits of the project also incorporates pricing strategies for managing traffic.
- Link the project with larger I-5 corridor planning efforts by taking into account the transportation needs of the entire corridor, as well as the potential impacts to people living along the entire I-5 corridor.
- Implement congestion pricing on this segment of I-5 as soon as possible and prior to completing the project.

Value: Engaging stakeholders through a transparent and inclusionary decision-making process

OUTCOMES:

- People with diverse backgrounds and expertise are brought together in local community spaces through engagement that is creative, intentional, and fosters community building.
- Engagement efforts reach out to communities to foster a two-way dialogue that demonstrates how those conversations meaningfully inform decision making.
- The process is community-led and supported by a clearly defined governance structure that is responsive to information, feedback, and insight gained through engagement.
- All stages of the process reflect community, local, and regional influence, ensuring there is consensus on the scope and that the project ultimately meets needs at every scale.
- Communication and collaboration with interagency partners is clear, consistent, and predictable, and there is demonstrated alignment regarding project outcomes.

ACTIONS REQUESTED: Additional potential actions requested from ODOT toward furthering this outcome:

- Provide more detail about the roles and expected deliverables of the CAC and ESC, as well as how committee feedback will be incorporated into project timelines and milestones.
- Clearly define how feedback mechanisms will function between the CAC, ESC, participating agencies, ODOT staff, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC).
- Clearly describe to agency partners how the OTC's 11 actions will be incorporated into the project and have timelines synchronized in a way that ensures transparency and accountability.
- Develop a partner agency agreement (e.g., IGA, MOU) that outlines how collaboration will continue to take place as part of a process that incorporates these outcomes, completes these identified actions, and commits to project principles and values.

Notes from staff on ODOT actions to date:

- *ODOT convened a Community Advisory Committee to provide input on the project.*
- *In addition to the Community Advisory Committee, ODOT is finalizing membership for an Executive Steering Committee with agency representation which will help define project principles and values*
- *ODOT has also established a workforce and DBE program that includes holding ongoing meetings with the minority contracting community.*
- *ODOT secured a consultant and anticipates the beginning an independent review of the highway cover design later this month.*
- *ODOT anticipates establishing technical advisory committees on urban design, air quality and other topics.*

