

Discussion Draft I-5 Bridge Replacement Project: Values, Outcomes, and Actions

Metro Council's support for the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project (IBRP) is contingent on a clear commitment to the outcomes listed below from the Bi-state Legislative Committee, the Oregon and Washington State Departments of Transportation, and the Executive Steering Group. This document will guide all Metro decisions and review of future funding requests for the project.

Draft Value: Advancing racial equity

Draft OUTCOMES

- Institutional leadership demonstrates an explicit commitment to equitable outcomes.
- Recognize and account for the history of construction impacts on communities surrounding the I-5 bridge area, support community cohesion, and avoid neighborhood disruption.
- Connectivity to jobs and community places is improved within the study area especially for marginalized communities.
- Best practices for anti-displacement are integrated into the project design and implementation.
- Job opportunities for Oregonians and SW Washingtonians, especially for people of color and local businesses.
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) opportunities are maximized at every phase of the construction project to gain jobs and address specific minority contracting needs.

Draft ACTIONS REQUESTED

- *Set design and contracting practices for local minority-owned contractors and small businesses that incorporates prime-contractor development programs, workforce development opportunities and anti-displacement community building investment.*
- *Give the IBRP Equity Committee purview over the implementation of the DBE contracting process and/or establish a committee to oversee implementation of the DBE contracting process.*

DRAFT Value: Affordability and economic prosperity.

- Right-sizing the project to improve cost-effectiveness while minimizing environmental and land use impacts.
- Economic growth is enhanced by capitalizing on opportunities for supporting goods movement reliability within the bi-state and regional network.
- Hayden Island access and safety is improved and redesigned with better transit, bike, and pedestrian connections on and off the island.

Draft ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- *Reduce and redefine the project area as described in the original Environmental Impact Statement.*
- *Develop a financial plan that includes congestion pricing and innovative financing to leverage federal and state funds.*
- *Explore opportunities to create and improve local connectivity to Hayden Island.*

DRAFT Value: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.

Draft OUTCOMES

- Congestion pricing is implemented as part of the project to both manage transportation demand and generate revenue while maximizing limited transportation funding resources
- High capacity transit (HCT) – light rail or bus rapid transit - provides frequent and high-quality connections between the two largest regional centers in the Portland region: downtown Portland and downtown Vancouver.
- A more efficient transportation system is achieved that improves traffic flow of the highway and improves and increases multi-modal mobility in the project area.
- Bicycle and pedestrian access and safety are improved making these modes real options for traveling and to improve access to transit.
- 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.

Draft 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 as soon as possible and prior to completing the project.*
- *Implement transit improvements as soon as possible to improve mobility and reduce emissions.*

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

Draft OUTCOMES

- Elevate equity considerations as an integral part of project decision-making and evaluation.
- People with diverse backgrounds and expertise are engaged early enough for meaningful input. This includes engagement prior to decision-making; a more robust effort than a typical NEPA analysis.
- Communication and collaboration with interagency partners is clear, consistent, and predictable, and there is demonstrated alignment regarding accountability for project outcomes.

Draft ACTIONS REQUESTED

Additional potential actions requested from IBRP program management toward furthering this outcome:

- *Develop a robust public engagement process for public input to inform the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).*
- *Provide more detail about the roles and expected deliverables of the Community Advisory Committee (CAG), Equity Advisory Group (EAG) and Executive Steering Group (ESG), as well as how committee feedback will be incorporated into project timelines and milestones.*
- *Clearly define how feedback mechanisms will function between the CAG, EAG, ESG, participating agencies, ODOT staff, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC).*