



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

September 26, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

Interstate 5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. In the Portland region between Interstates 84 and 405, Interstate 5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods, commuters traveling to and from the Portland metro area, and people traveling within and visiting the region. This is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within Oregon.

It is also a highway that divided the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s, disproportionately impacting Portland's Black community. ODOT has placed a renewed focus on the historic Albina community through the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project and acknowledges this painful history. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), a committee that elevates voices in the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests, and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over sections of Interstate 5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces for future development and economic opportunities. This new cover will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure over the highway more resilient in the event of the Cascadia earthquake. This project will also invest more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area, providing opportunities for jobs and economic development for Black Portlanders in particular, the community most impacted by the original construction of the interstate. The project's investment in people is particularly important to me.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application. The Reconnecting Communities Grant Program provides a unique opportunity for Oregon to advance one of our highest priority transportation projects while also taking ownership of past injustices. Should you have any questions, please contact my Transportation and Infrastructure Advisor, Kelly Brooks, at (503) 373-1558 or [Kelly.S.Brooks@oregon.gov](mailto:Kelly.S.Brooks@oregon.gov).

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek



## OREGON LEGISLATURE

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write today to you regarding the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

Interstate 5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. In the Portland region between Interstates 84 and 405, I-5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods; commuters traveling to and from the Portland metro area; and people traveling within and visiting the region. This is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within Oregon.

It is also a highway that divided the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s, disproportionately impacting Portland's Black community. As an agency, ODOT has put a renewed focus on the historic Albina community through the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project and acknowledges this painful history. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), a committee that elevates voices in the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests and values, and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project. The HAAB has urged ODOT to pursue grant opportunities like this one, to ensure the project has the resources needed to complete design and proceed to construction.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over sections of Interstate 5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities. This new cover—a community-supported design the HAAB advanced in 2021—will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure over I-5 more resilient in the event of the Cascadia earthquake.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also provide key bottleneck relief on I-5 in the Rose Quarter area and increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on local streets. The project will reduce travel times and improve reliability among one of Oregon's busiest stretches of interstate, with ramp-to-ramp connections and wider shoulders. Local street improvements will knit together communities that were disproportionately impacted by the interstate's original construction. This project is very important to all communities in Oregon, and the entire state will benefit from this grant to finish the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

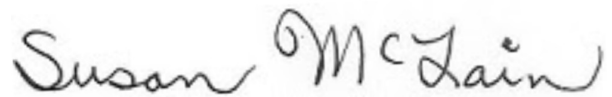
The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also create significant opportunities for jobs and economic development. This Project will invest more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area, providing opportunities for jobs and economic development for Black Portlanders in particular—the community most impacted by the original construction of the interstate.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application consistent with all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gorsek", with a blue checkmark above the name.

State Senator Chris Gorsek, Co- Chair  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon Senate District 25

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan McLain".

State Representative Susan McLain, Co-  
Chair Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon House District 29

Capitol Address: 900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

[www.OregonLegislature.gov](http://www.OregonLegislature.gov)



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CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**  
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner  
Dan Ryan, Commissioner  
Rene Gonzalez, Commissioner  
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

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September 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing regarding our support for two Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program applications: Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project highway cover and Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) Broadway Main Street project.

The original construction of Interstate 5 (I-5) in the 1950s and 60s divided the Albina neighborhood, which was then the heart of Portland's Black community, and was part of a series of public and private developments that led to disinvestment in Albina and the displacement of many of its residents, businesses, and community institutions. Over 800 Black-owned homes were razed, destroying billions in generational wealth, and upending a thriving local economy. Despite this history, most of Portland's historic Black churches, social justice organizations, and social service agencies are still anchored in Albina and the surrounding neighborhoods, and the area remains a cultural and emotional hub for many Black Portlanders.

ODOT's I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over I-5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces for future development and economic opportunities. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), a committee that elevates voices of the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests and values, and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project. The HAAB sees significant opportunities with the construction of the highway cover - to create space for businesses that build wealth, health and social services, and public spaces that offer safe access and connections. Reconnected and rebuilt local streets will increase safety for people walking, biking, and riding transit. The cover will include seismic upgrades, making the structure over I-5 more resilient in the event of the Cascadia earthquake. And finally, the Project will create significant opportunities for jobs and economic development by investing more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area.

PBOT's Broadway Main Street Project will reconnect Albina Vision catalytic sites to neighborhoods and key destinations across I-5 to the north and east, while also improving connections within the district to important destinations including the Willamette River, a regional transit center, and both existing and planned parks and open spaces. This project compliments and extends ODOT's highway cover investment to reconnect neighborhoods on either side of I-5 following a generation of forced displacement and underinvestment. The Broadway Main Street Project will tangibly advance social, economic, and environmental justice by catalyzing necessary transportation infrastructure investment in support of the Albina Vision Community Investment Plan.

These NAE grants are critical for ensuring the promise of restorative justice is met with action. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of these two grant applications.

Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler  
Mayor



Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner



Dan Ryan  
Commissioner



Rene Gonzalez  
Commissioner



Mingus Mapps  
Commissioner



600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
oregonmetro.gov

**Council President Lynn Peterson**

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Metro Council in the Portland metro region, I would like to express support for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) application for the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program Capital Construction Grant for the I-5 Rose Quarter Project.

The original construction of Interstate 5 (I-5) in the 1950s and 60s decimated the Albina neighborhood, then home to four out of five Black families in Portland. The I-5 project was part of a series of public and private developments that led to disinvestment in Albina and displaced many of its residents, businesses, and community institutions. Over 800 Black-owned homes were razed, destroying billions in generational wealth and upending a thriving local economy. Despite this history, most of Portland's historic Black churches, social justice organizations, and social service agencies are still anchored in Albina and the surrounding neighborhoods, and the area remains a cultural hub for Black Portlanders.

Metro is proud to be a part of the generational effort to rebuild Albina. As the metropolitan planning organization for the greater Portland region, Metro works with a variety of agency partners, including ODOT, The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), and Albina Vision Trust on multiple projects aimed at restoring justice to Black Portlanders with connections to the Albina neighborhood. If funded, the Rose Quarter Project will knit together a network of surface street improvements with the new highway covers. This will help to restore the safe, walkable, and well-connected street grid that Albina once enjoyed, and also create new public spaces that reflect the area's history and new developable parcels that provide opportunities to build community wealth.

The Rose Quarter Project has long been a key element of the region's efforts to create better and safer connections both to and within its central city. The project is identified as a key investment in the Regional Transportation Plan, which Metro is currently updating. ODOT has been coordinating with agency and community partners to ensure that the Rose Quarter Project meets community needs and supports other planned improvements in the area. In particular, this project complements PBOT's NAE application for the Broadway Main Street Project. If both of these projects are funded, they will transform a three-quarter-mile stretch Broadway into a safe and thriving main street to serve a restored Albina.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this important grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Metro Council President Lynn Peterson

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing today in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project. This project is a critical one for a part of Multnomah County that especially needs and deserves this type of critical infrastructure investment.

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. In the Portland region, between Interstates 84 and 405, I-5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods; commuters traveling to and from the Portland metro area; and people traveling within and visiting the region. This is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate in Oregon.

It is also a highway that divided the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s, disproportionately impacting Portland's Black community. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), a committee that elevates voices in the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests and values, and that historic Albina directly benefits from investment. The HAAB has urged ODOT to pursue grant opportunities like this one, especially to ensure the project has the resources needed to complete design, proceed to construction, and help rebuild the community that once thrived here.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project is designed to include a highway cover over sections of I-5 to reconnect local streets and create new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities. This new cover—a community-supported design that the HAAB advanced in 2021—will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure more resilient in the event of a major earthquake.

This project will increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on local streets and provide key bottleneck relief on I-5 in the Rose Quarter area. The project will likely reduce travel times and improve reliability among one of Oregon's busiest stretches of interstate. Local street improvements will knit together communities that were disproportionately impacted by the interstate's original construction.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also create significant opportunities for jobs and economic development. This Project will invest more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area, providing opportunities for jobs and economic development for Black Portlanders in particular, which is the community most impacted by the original construction of I-5.

**Chair Jessica Vega Pederson**

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Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. Thank you also for your time and attention around a critical investment for the Portland Metro area and Multnomah County.

Sincerely,



Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 25, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

This project will reduce congestion and improve safety at the State's worst highway bottleneck. More importantly, it will start the process to repair the neighborhood that was split apart by the freeway's construction, and divided Oregon's oldest and largest concentration of the Black community. TriMet, the region's transit agency, has been a project partner throughout the planning and design process with an eye to ensure that the project and its impacts consider access to transit and continue to improve multimodal connections in the project area.

In the early 1960's, the I-5 freeway sliced directly through Oregon's largest concentration of Black residents. It split the Elliot neighborhood within the Albina area, with a crushing tear to the community. This project is lead in partnership by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB). This board represents today's Black community, to see that outcomes reflect community interests and values, and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project.

In that spirit, the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project proposes a cover over sections of Interstate 5 to reconnect local streets and create new community spaces for future development and economic opportunities. This new highway cover, paired with local street improvements to increase multimodal access in the area, address the needs of freeway users and the local community.

This project has significant residential, community, agency, and governmental support and hopes to begin to rectify past wrongs. TriMet has participated in this Project as a partner agency and supports the solutions the community partners and ODOT have advanced to address the past harms that this freeway created. TriMet encourages new multimodal connections that support economic growth, which we see as a key step towards reconnecting our communities and healing the divide the freeway created.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Markgraf at TriMet in my office at [markgraf@trimet.org](mailto:markgraf@trimet.org) or 503-752-2597.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Desue, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam Desue, Jr.

TriMet General Manager



September 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to convey the Port of Portland's (Port) support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the Interstate 5 (I-5) Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

The Port's mission is to build shared prosperity through trade, travel, and economic development. All aspects of our work rely on Oregon's highway system to provide safe, efficient, and equitable connection to and from our facilities. I-5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the west coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. It is also the interstate serving Marine Terminal 6 and providing critical access to the Port's Rivergate Industrial Park, a major employment hub in the Portland area. The Rose Quarter is Oregon's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within the state.

It is also a highway that divided the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s, disproportionately impacting Portland's Black community. As an agency, ODOT has put a renewed focus on the historic Albina community through the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project and acknowledges this painful history. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), a committee that elevates voices in the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests and values, and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project. The HAAB has urged ODOT to pursue grant opportunities like this one, to ensure the project has the resources needed to complete design and proceed to construction. With over \$150 million of planned investment in Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, the project will also provide quality jobs for the local community throughout construction.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over sections of Interstate 5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities. This new cover—a community-supported design the HAAB advanced in 2021—will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure over I-5 more resilient in the event of the Cascadia earthquake.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also provide key bottleneck relief on I-5 in the Rose Quarter area and increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on local streets. With ramp-to-ramp connections and wider shoulders, the project will reduce travel times and improve reliability among one of Oregon's busiest stretches of interstate.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Robinhold".

Curtis Robinhold  
Executive Director



# Portland Public Schools Board of Education

501 N Dixon St. Portland, OR 97227  
503-916-3741 • schoolboard@pps.net

Gary Hollands (C)  
Herman Greene (VC)  
Julia Brim-Edwards  
Michelle DePass  
Eddie Wang  
Patte Sullivan  
Andrew Scott  
Frankie Silverstein (SR)

September 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing about the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

Interstate 5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. In the Portland region between Interstates 84 and 405, I-5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods, commuters traveling to and from the Portland metro area, and people traveling within and visiting the region. This is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within Oregon.

It is also a highway that divided the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s, disproportionately impacting Portland's Black community. As an agency, ODOT has put a renewed focus on the historic Albina community through the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project and acknowledges this painful history. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB). This committee elevates voices in the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests and values and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project. The HAAB has urged ODOT to pursue grant opportunities like this one to ensure the project has the resources needed to complete the design and proceed to construction.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over sections of Interstate 5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces for future development and economic opportunities. This new cover—a community-supported design the HAAB advanced in 2021—will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure over I-5 more resilient during the Cascadia earthquake.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also provide critical bottleneck relief on I-5 in the Rose Quarter area and increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on local streets. The project will reduce travel times and improve reliability among one of Oregon's busiest stretches of interstate, with ramp-to-ramp connections and broader shoulders. Local street improvements will unite communities disproportionately impacted by the interstate's original construction.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also create significant opportunities for jobs and economic development. This Project will invest more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area, providing opportunities for employment and economic growth for Black Portlanders in particular—the community most impacted by the original construction of the interstate.

As the largest school district in Oregon whose school communities and surrounding neighborhoods have been repeatedly harmed by the original construction of I-5, we want to ensure that this project will not only



support economic growth for our families but that it represents a crucial step towards reconnecting this community and creating a better future for its residents. PPS is investing over \$500 million to establish the Center for Black Student Excellence and rebuild Harriet Tubman Middle and Jefferson High School in Albina. This investment is a testament to our unwavering commitment to the future of this community.

Thank you for fully and fairly considering this grant application, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Jonathan Garcia, PPS Chief of Staff, at [jgarcia@pps.net](mailto:jgarcia@pps.net).

Sincerely,

Portland Public Schools Board of Education





September 26, 2023

**Gustavo J. Cruz, Jr.**  
Commission Chair

**Marcelino J. Alvarez**  
Commissioner

**William Myers**  
Commissioner

**Michi Slick**  
Commissioner

**Serena Stoudamire Wesley**  
Commissioner

**Carmen Rubio**  
Commissioner,  
City of Portland

**Kimberly Branam**  
Executive Director

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, a transformative initiative undertaken by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in partnership with the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), with a particular focus on those elements of the Project that support community connections, urban design, and wealth generation in the Black and historic Albina community. As the Executive Director of Prosper Portland, the city's economic development and urban development agency, we have a shared goal with ODOT of ensuring public investments do not perpetuate past harms but instead deliver economic, social, and restorative justice opportunities that this Project represents.

When constructed in the 1960s, Portland's region of the I-5 divided the historic Albina community and disproportionately impacted Portland's Black community through displacement and subsequent erosion of generational wealth, and wealth-building opportunities. We are supportive of investments via the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project that will help re-establish the physical fabric of Lower Albina and give opportunity for new development to support local small businesses, culturally appropriate services such as childcare, and large and accessible outdoor community gathering space. This, together with the opportunities derived from the construction phase of the Project, and with guidance from the HAAB, will deliver a Project that reflects the community's priorities, interests, and values.

The Rose Quarter Improvement Project offers a unique chance for local, State and Federal government to address historical injustices and inequalities related to transportation infrastructure in our city. By actively engaging with HAAB and local community partners and incorporating their guidance about who benefits and who is impacted, we can move closer to rectifying past wrongs and creating a more equitable and interconnected city. We firmly believe that the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project is an important step to delivering on inclusive economic growth and wealth-building opportunities, and we support ODOT in their funding request to ensure the Project's successful and complete implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact this project will have on our beloved city.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Branam  
Executive Director, Prosper Portland

[prosperportland.us](http://prosperportland.us)

220 NW Second Ave.,  
Suite 200, Portland, OR  
97209-3943

503-823-3200 Main  
503-823-3368 Fax  
503-823-3366 TTY



September 26, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing with regard to the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project. On behalf of the 25,180 trucking companies and more than 100,000 trucking industry employees in Oregon, I urge you to support ODOT's application to advance the construction of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

Interstate 5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. In the Portland region between Interstates 84 and 405, I-5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods; commuters traveling to and from the Portland metro area; and people traveling within and visiting the region. This is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within Oregon. Increased capacity within the I-5 corridor is critical for the trucking industry, as it is one of the primary thoroughfares for moving freight through the Portland-Metro area.

It is also a highway that divided the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s, disproportionately impacting Portland's Black community. As an agency, ODOT has put a renewed focus on the historic Albina community through the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project. The project is guided by the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), a committee that elevates voices in the Black community to ensure that project outcomes reflect community interests and values, and that historic Albina directly benefits from the investments of this project. The HAAB has urged ODOT to pursue grant opportunities like this one, to ensure the project has the resources needed to complete design and proceed to construction.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over sections of Interstate 5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities. This new cover—a community-supported design the HAAB advanced in 2021—will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure over I-5 more resilient in the event of the Cascadia earthquake.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also provide key bottleneck relief on I-5 in the Rose Quarter area and better support the efficient movement of freight along this critical interstate route. The project will reduce travel times and improve reliability among one of Oregon's busiest stretches of interstate, with ramp-to-ramp

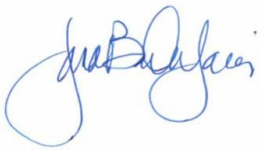
connections and wider shoulders, an important step toward improving safety for truck drivers along this heavily trafficked route.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will also create significant opportunities for jobs and economic development. This Project will invest more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area, providing opportunities for jobs and economic development for Black Portlanders in particular—the community most impacted by the original construction of the interstate.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application consistent with all applicable rules and regulations.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jana Jarvis with the Oregon Trucking Association at 503-513-0005 or [jana@ortrucking.org](mailto:jana@ortrucking.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jana Jarvis', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jana Jarvis  
President/CEO





# I-5 ROSE QUARTER

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



[www.i5RoseQuarter.org](http://www.i5RoseQuarter.org)



[i5RoseQuarter@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:i5RoseQuarter@odot.oregon.gov)



503-470-3127

TO: [The Honorable Pete Buttigieg](#)  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

We write to you as members of the I-5 Rose Quarter's Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), in strong support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

Interstate 5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada. In the Portland region between Interstates 84 and 405, I-5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods, for commuters and visitors traveling throughout the Portland metro area. This area is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within Oregon.

It is also a highway that devastated the historic Albina community when it was constructed in the 1960s. This construction disproportionately impacted Portland's Black community with millions of dollars of generational wealth lost due to this action. Our families and community are still negatively impacted to this day. The Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant will do much more than physically reconnect our neighborhood – it will catalyze additional investment in our community with family wage jobs, renewed community spaces and developments geared toward wealth generation specifically for the Black community in addition to bringing back a sense of pride and respect.

The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project includes a highway cover over sections of Interstate 5 that will reconnect local streets and create new community spaces on top for future development and economic opportunities. As well, the design includes a bike and pedestrian bridge that provides another option for people walking, biking and rolling across I-5, with a direct connection to the Moda Center (Portland's multipurpose arena that is home to the NBA's Portland Trailblazers) and

## HAAB Members

- [Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon](#)
- [Sprinavasa Brown](#)
- [Andrew Campbell](#)
- [Bryson Davis](#)
- [Cleo Davis](#)
- [Keith Edwards](#)
- [Leslie Goodlow](#)
- [Tamara Kennedy](#)
- [Estelle Love Lavespere](#)
- [Kevin Modica](#)
- [James Posey](#)
- [Dr. Carlos Richard](#)
- [John Washington](#)

the southern end of the project's highway cover. This new cover—a community-supported design we advanced in 2021—will also include seismic upgrades, making the structure over I-5 more resilient in the event of the Cascadia earthquake. The I-5 Rose Quarter Project represents an opportunity for significant future investment in the community, and perhaps most significantly, in the people who will help build this project. This Project will invest more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area, providing opportunities for jobs and economic development for Black Portlanders in particular—the community most impacted by the original construction of the interstate. These investments represent new jobs and career paths, job training and wealth generation in the community.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to build a truly transformational project that is intentional about significant economic investments for the Historic Albina Community. As leaders, business owners and legacy family members of the Historic Albina Neighborhood we want to ensure our voices continue to be heard, have value in the decision-making process and that this project has the resources needed to truly be successful. An investment in this project is a commitment to building a better future for a community that has, for too long, been targeted, displaced, and disproportionately impacted by prior local, state and federal government actions. In order to successfully build a project with a highway cover that will have a meaningful impact on the community now and in the future, ODOT, The City of Portland, Multnomah County, Metro as well as the federal government must accept guidance from the community that was most harmed and commit to making significant investments not only to repair but rebuild it.

Now is the time. This is the opportunity. We are the people.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Historic Albina Advisory Board



September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Albina Vision Trust (AVT) is strongly supportive of two Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program Capital Construction Grant applications submitted by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland Bureau of Transportation. The *Interstate-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project* (RQIP) and *Broadway Main Street Project* collectively represent a generational opportunity for Black Portlanders who have spent over 60 years fighting to reclaim and reconnect the historic community that was ripped from under our feet by the targeted, racialized and destructive forces of urban renewal.

The original construction of Interstate 5 (I-5) in the 1950s and 60s decimated the Albina neighborhood, then home to 4 out of 5 Black families in Portland. I-5 was part of a series of public and private developments that led to disinvestment in Albina and the displacement of many of its residents, businesses, and community institutions. Over 800 Black-owned homes were razed, destroying billions in generational wealth and upending a thriving local economy. Despite this history, most of Portland's historic Black churches, social justice organizations, and social service agencies are still anchored in Albina and the surrounding neighborhoods, and the area remains a cultural and emotional hub for Black Portlanders.

The Albina Vision was created to counteract the forced displacement of Black Portlanders by leveraging restorative redevelopment to heal the scars of urban renewal. Our work represents the largest equitable development effort in America—a comprehensive, district-level strategy working across sectors to restitch the neighborhood, rebuild wealth, and reclaim place in Lower Albina.

ODOT's capital construction grant application, which requests funding for the design and construction of a highway cover, multimodal street improvements and a separated bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-5 in the center, connecting each side of the City's grant project area. Most importantly, the covering of I-5 would rectify the disconnecting trench that was dug through the middle of our center city heartland, severing Black Portlanders from one another and fragmenting our community.

Equally important, the City of Portland's *Broadway Main Street Project* will provide critically necessary local transportation infrastructure to support the future reconnection of Albina. The

City's project is important for connecting Albina Vision catalytic sites to neighborhoods and key destinations across Interstate 5 to the north and east, while also improving connections within the district to important destinations including the Willamette River, a regional transit center, and both existing and planned parks and open spaces. Further, this project will provide immediate safety benefits to the first families slated to move into the district in 2025 as part of Albina Vision's first housing project, Albina One.

AVT is proud to stand alongside our city and state in supporting the generational effort to rebuild Albina. Both proposed projects complement one another and will prove vital to the restoration and redevelopment of our historic home.

Thank you for your full consideration of these two grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Winta Yohannes", with a light blue circular stamp or seal partially visible behind it.

Winta Yohannes  
Executive Director, Albina Vision Trust

ALBINA VISION TRUST  
PO BOX 5124, PORTLAND, OR 97208

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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Portland Metro Chamber and our partners in the Portland region, We write today in strong support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program application for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

The Portland Metro Chamber (The Chamber) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health and the region's overall prosperity. We represent more than 2,100 members, from 27 counties, 13 states and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

Interstate 5 is the main north-south route moving people and goods and connecting population centers across the West Coast of the United States, from Mexico to Canada, providing a wide variety of economic benefits to the Portland Metro region, the State of Oregon, and the nation as a whole. In the Portland region between Interstates 84 and 405, I-5 is critical for truck freight and businesses moving goods; commuters traveling to and from the Portland metro area; and people traveling within and visiting the region. This is the State's top bottleneck and has the highest crash rate of any interstate within Oregon.

Notably, the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project will include a highway cover over I-5 that reconnects the street grid and can support future development, which will provide a significant investment in the community and in the people who are helping to build this Project. It will provide opportunities for living-wage jobs and economic development, benefitting Black Portlanders, the community most impacted by the original construction of the Interstate. The Project includes an intentional program to maximize small and minority-owned business involvement and a diverse workforce, with more than \$150 million in jobs for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the area. If done as planned, this stands to represent one of the most significant contracting opportunities in Oregon's history, getting people to work and building careers.

Congestion on I-5 in the Rose Quarter area is the worst in the state and has the highest crash rate of any interstate in Oregon. This affects the ability to deliver goods on time, which results in increased costs and uncertainty for businesses. Once this project is complete, it will make travel more predictable and safer for people driving and transporting goods, with ramp-to-ramp connections and wider shoulders to smooth traffic flow and reduce frequent crashes from weaving and merging. Local street improvements will knit together neighborhoods that were disproportionately impacted by the interstate's original construction, supporting economic growth and representing a key step towards reconnecting our communities.



ODOT's \$850 million grant request would significantly advance the project, funding completion of the Main Construction Package final design, purchase of right of way and utility relocation, and construction of the primary community reconnection elements of the Main Construction Package, including the highway cover and local street improvements.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application. Should you have any questions, please contact Jon Isaacs with the Portland Metro Chamber at [jon@portlandmetrochamber.com](mailto:jon@portlandmetrochamber.com).

Sincerely,

Andrew Hoan  
President & CEO, Portland Metro Chamber





September 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management, I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application under the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement project.

The I-5 Rose Quarter project is one of the top transportation priorities for the State of Oregon and for the Pacific Northwest region. The project also represents a unique opportunity to repair historic harm done to the Albina neighborhood during the original construction of I-5 in the 1960s. Funding from this grant will help provide needed resources to alleviate serious congestion on the west coast's major interstate freeway, while addressing climate, commerce, and restorative justice goals for our region.

The Trail Blazers organization is very proud of our long-standing partnership with the Historic Albina Advisory Board, the Albina Vision Trust and other groups that have long sought to bring neighbor connectivity back to an area that was split apart when the I-5 freeway displaced Black Oregonians during its construction 60 years ago. Those impacts are still felt today. This grant application seeks to provide necessary funding for freeway covers that will reconnect neighborhoods and streets, and provide economic development opportunities for the community.

Rip City Management operates two of the state's largest sports and entertainment arenas — the Moda Center and Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Both facilities sit adjacent to I-5 in what is termed the Rose Quarter area. With growth in the region, our fans and visitors experience traffic delays and safety issues that must be addressed with a renovated freeway system through the Rose Quarter corridor. This grant is an important piece of the funding for the overall project and will help address the critical transportation needs of all stakeholders — from the Albina community, to those engaged in commerce, to travelers and tourists, as well as for our Blazers fans.

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trailblazers.com  
rosequarter.com





**RoseQuarter**

We ask the U.S. Department of Transportation to fully fund this grant application. We look forward to continuing to work on the design aspects of the project with ODOT, the City of Portland and the community partners involved to ensure the I-5 Rose Quarter project meets all the goals of our region, including safety, traffic flow, climate and restoring justice to Portland's Albina community.

Sincerely,

Dewayne Hankins  
President of Business Operations  
Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management



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