

HISTORIC ALBINA ADVISORY BOARD (HAAB) MEETING #25 SUMMARY

Date: May 16, 2023
Time: 4:00–5:30 PM
Location: Online Zoom meeting

This document is a summary of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board meeting. The [meeting presentation](#) and [recording](#) provide additional documentation.

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Dr. Ebony Amato–Blackmon
- Kevin Modica
- Andrew Campbell
- Leslie Goodlow
- John Washington
- Bryson Davis
- Dr. Carlos Richard

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Sprinavasa Brown
- Andrew Clarke
- Keith Edwards
- Estelle Lavespere

Staff and Presenters

- Ericka Warren (W.), Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator
- Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Strategic Advisor
- Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director
- Shawnea Posey, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation Project Manager
- Patricia Diefenderfer, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Chief Planner
- Lisa Abuaf, Prosper Portland Director of Development & Investment
- Erika McCalpine (M.), ODOT Assistant Director for Social Equity
- Dr. Terrence McTier, ODOT Equity and Civil Rights Program Manager
- Brendan Finn, ODOT Director of Urban Mobility Office
- Natalie Warner, Technical Support
- Brea DuBose, Technical Support
- Kassie McKnight, Notetaker

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
- Public Comment
- Project Updates
- ODOT Office of Equity and Civil Rights Presentation
- City Partner Meet and Greet
- HAAB Charter Revisions
- Next Steps, Adjourn

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka Warren (W.), Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, welcomed the board and participants to the first hybrid in-person and virtual meeting they've had in several years. Ericka provided an overview of the agenda and the phone numbers for public comment and technical assistance.

Ericka W. reminded committee members of the seven principles of agreement to guide their participation in today's meeting.

Public Comment

No verbal comments were provided during this meeting.

Project Updates

Megan Channell, Project Director, reminded everyone about the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) process and explained that the project is still working on reviewing and responding to all 921 public comments. Those responses will be added to the final Revised Supplemental EA document, which the Federal Highway Administration will review. The project will continue working on this through the end of the year.

Megan then discussed some of the potential design refinements that are being considered based on public comments, including reincorporating a bicycle and pedestrian path across I-5, ensuring the project is addressing pedestrian safety, event operations and traffic management, how the ramps interact with the local street network, and broader district character. Megan explained that the refinements the HAAB helped form are what's being carried forward into the Revised Supplemental EA document, and that the project team is updating their traffic modeling and doing further analysis on these changes in order to understand potential impacts and inform mitigation.

Megan and Ericka W. asked for questions. There were none.

ODOT Office of Equity and Civil Rights Presentation

Ericka W. introduced Erika McCalpine (M.), ODOT Assistant Director for Social Equity.

Erika M. thanked everyone for being there in person and emphasized how valued the HAAB members are to ODOT. Erika M. introduced Dr. Terrence McTier, a Program Manager for the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, and the colleague overseeing engagement enhancements.

Erika M. recognized there have been some issues with the gift card payments, which prompted ODOT to make changes. Erika M. went on to explain the objectives of their office's engagement plan, which includes acknowledging and addressing community concerns, sharing engagement toolkit enhancements, and gathering feedback for continuous improvement.

The engagement toolkit will be the standard for how ODOT does community engagement going forward and includes an Equitable Community Engagement Guide, a Social Equity Index Map, a series of questions ODOT uses as their Social Equity Lens, and information on the Equitable Engagement Compensation Program.

Erika M. addressed the concerns ODOT heard about the compensation program and how they will be moving forward with HAAB and others.

To conclude, Erika M. explained that ODOT plans to increase community engagement on all projects. Erika M. encouraged HAAB members to reach out for coffee and questions.

Ericka W. offered to send out Erika M.'s contact information to the group after the meeting.

City Partner Meet and Greet

Ericka W. then introduced Shawnea Posey, Project Manager with the City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation (PBOT).

Shawnea explained how the city is aligning itself to participate on the project, recognizing that, while the project is owned by ODOT, the city is a partner with jurisdictional control over the local street network and permitting.

Shawnea said that PBOT is the lead city bureau for the city's participation in the project. Their team will be responsible for planning, local street design, circulation permitting, construction support and coordination, and helping to coordinate all other city bureaus.

Patricia Diefenderfer, Chief Planner with the city's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS), explained that their role on this project is to help develop long-term and opening-day highway cover use scenarios. Patricia explained that some of this work will lead to new city legislative actions around zoning and aligning the city's comprehensive plan.

Lisa Abuaf, Director of Development & Investment at Prosper Portland, explained their role will be to think about who will eventually own the land and what obligations and opportunities come with that ownership. Next, Lisa drew comparisons between the work of the HAAB and other work the city is doing in order to see where their values align, including showing some of that work geographically in relation to the project area.

Patricia acknowledged the Independent Cover Assessment’s Neighborhood Framework Principles and top ten priorities as the foundation of this work and the starting point for the city. Patricia went on to explain the multi-phase plan for moving forward on highway cover design, including the anticipated deliverables for each phase. Patricia pointed out that they’d heard the importance of governance throughout the process, and they’d restructured the body of work and deliverables to recognize that concern.

Patricia and Ericka W. asked for questions.

Discussion:

Andrew Campbell asked how the redistricting of the City of Portland City Council might influence the project.

- Patricia responded that with all of the changes, they don’t have all of the answers yet, but that the commitments to the project were recently memorialized by council actions.
- Lisa added that they anticipate a lot of change over the next five years but will remain committed to updating new council members.

Dr. Carlos Richard asked whether the city and ODOT had memorialized a commitment to do no harm in the future.

- Brendan Finn, ODOT Director of Urban Mobility Office, recognized that ODOT has made promises to communities and has memorialized some materials around doing no harm. They plan to continue showing up in spaces like this and relying on HAAB’s expertise to guide the agency.
- Dr. Richard responded, saying that the responsibility of doing no harm rests with the agencies. Brendan agreed with Dr. Richard.
- Erika M. added the commitment of ODOT’s Office of Equity and Civil Rights. Erika M. said their office would look at the HAAB Charter to identify potential inclusion of written acknowledgement of not intentionally causing further harm.
- Dr. Richard reiterated that these comments are meant to keep this conversation at the center of everything they do.
- Lisa added that the city shares the same commitment to do no harm. Lisa offered to share an example of a memorandum of understanding the city is using on the Williams & Russell project.

John Washington voiced concerns about some of the changes to HAAB and the city redistricting. John offered to introduce new city partners to members of the community and visit the neighborhood.

Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon thanked the agencies for acknowledging the harm they’ve caused, and that it’s important to consider that in the discussion.

- Dr. Richard responded, explaining that earlier comments were not meant to cause delays in progress but to get a formal dedication and commitment for moving forward.

-
- Patricia added that BPS is also committed to adhering to the project, city and bureau values, as well as the ICA principles.
 - John responded, encouraging the group to think beyond the technical understanding of the project.

Kevin Modica gave an observation, explaining there's a feeling that all of the reinvestment plans and projects in Albina are now siloed and there's a missing piece of communication. Kevin requested more time with everyone in the same room at something like a seminar or weekend conference.

- Ericka W. responded saying there have been discussions on how to minimize communication gaps and seek out opportunities for a multi-day gathering.
- Kevin requested that an event like this be held at a location within the community.

Ericka W. thanked everyone for leaning into the conversation and then asked people to send an email or message with more questions about the city's presentation.

HAAB Charter Revisions

Ericka W. explained that HAAB members received two copies of the revised charter, one a clean copy, and one showing differences between the former copy and proposed changes. The plan is to ratify the charter and any amendments at the June meeting. Ericka W. asked members to take a deeper look before the meeting.

Ericka W. broadly reminded members of the role of the HAAB and then discussed some of the high-level changes in the charter, including:

1. Identifying new board members.
2. A new organizational chart that recognizes the transition from the Executive Steering Committee to HAAB.
3. Inclusion of the compensation plan.
4. The new meeting schedule.

Ericka W. asked that members forward any adjustments and comments along, or to discuss any questions in their 1-on-1 meetings.

Ericka W. asked for questions.

Discussion:

Leslie thanked Ericka W. for summarizing the changes.

Erika M. reiterated her commitment to having the Office of Equity and Civil Rights take a look at the charter for potential edits.

Next Steps / Adjourn

Ericka W. reiterated the new HAAB meeting schedule on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month as well as continuing to offer hybrid meeting opportunities.

Discussion:

Leslie requested that meeting times remain the same, and any changes made be well in advance.

- Ericka W. committed to advanced notice.

Erika M. responded to a comment in the chat, assuring members that if ODOT made any changes to the HAAB charter, HAAB members would see those changes prior to the June meeting.

Ericka W. reminded members they could dive into the 921 public comments on the website and thanked everyone again for their commitment to the process.

Ericka W. adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Note: This meeting was hosted in person and online. Historic Albina Advisory Board members online were able to unmute their microphones and use web cameras to participate in the meeting. Attendees, or public observers, remained in "listen-only" mode online, and without access to video-sharing functions (attendees were able to view the presentation slides).