

I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project

Historic Albina Advisory Board

Meeting #14 Summary

MEETING DATE: December 14, 2021

MEETING TIME: 4:00 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Zoom online meeting

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

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon
- Bryson Davis
- Keith Edwards
- Leslie Goodlow
- Kevin Modica
- Dr. Carlos Richard
- John Washington
- Sprinavasa Brown

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Andrew Campbell
- Andrew Clarke
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Carl Talton
- Estelle Love Lavespere

Staff Members & Presenters

- Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator
- Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Advisor
- Monica Blanchard, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Deputy Director
- Tia Williams, ODOT Urban Mobility Office Communications Director
- Rose Gerber, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Communications and Media Manager
- Alex Cousins, Advisory Committee Support Manager, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- James McGrath, Urban Designer, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- William Hart, Urban Designer, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Marianne Zarkin, Urban Designer, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's representative team
- Bill Bruce, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Construction Manager/General Contractor Team
- Jeff Moreland, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Construction Manager/General Contractor Team
- Amber Ontiveros, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

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- Natalie Warner, Technical Support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- MJ Jackson, Notetaker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Agenda

- Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review
- Public Comment
- Project Updates
 - Director's Update
 - Response to prior HAAB questions
- Diversity Plan Update
- Performance Measures Continued
- Charter Approval
- Design Update
- Youth Engagement Opportunity
- Next Steps/Adjourn

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka Warren, Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, welcomed the board and participants, provided an overview of the meeting and reminded everyone of the numbers for public comment and technical assistance. She reminded committee members of the seven principles of agreement to guide participation in today's meeting.

Public Comment

Ericka confirmed the time limit for public comment was extended to two minutes after reviewing Board feedback. There were no public comments.

Project Updates

Monica Blanchard, Project Deputy Director, updated the Board on the project website, the Governor's letter of agreement, the project finance plan process and performance measures.

Tia Williams, Communications Director for the Urban Mobility Office, gave an overview on community engagement plans for 2022.

- Sprinavasa Brown asked how the quality of community engagement will be evaluated with the quantity of touch points.
 - Tia responded the UMO can work with Monica and others to operationalize that in the performance measures. Tia noted the UMO does track the quality of interactions internally, usually based on purpose of the engagement (i.e., informational vs. decision-making).

Diversity Plan Update

Ericka provided an update on the Community Oversight Advisory Committee's work to shape how the project will approach opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms and maximize economic benefit through apprenticeships and training programs. Ericka then introduced Jeff Moreland and Bill Bruce.

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Jeff Moreland confirmed the diversity plan has been submitted to ODOT, but work is ongoing to incorporate community input. Bill Bruce summarized potential DBE values with the Proposed Hybrid 3 Concept.

- Keith Edwards asked if Raimore's numbers skew the overall picture of diversity for the project's subcontractors. Jeff responded that even without Raimore, there would still be 400,000 craft hours represented by people of marginalized groups.
- Sprinavasa commented she'd like to see the group move away from "BIPOC" in favor of more specific, disaggregated data. At a minimum, Sprinavasa would like to see information about the Black community pulled out. Creating opportunities for the Black community is at the core of the work being done.

Charter Approval (Decision)

Ericka called for charter approval to be discussed prior to performance measures in case any Board members needed to leave early. Ericka affirmed the Board is instrumental in helping develop a community-centered project and asked if anyone had questions about the charter before moving forward.

- Keith said he thinks the updated charter covered most of the group's concerns but was anxious about the decision-making process. He doesn't want to find out about decisions after they've been made without community input.
- Sprinavasa made the motion to approve the revised charter, which was then seconded by Bryson Davis.

Ericka called on the rest of the Board for a formal vote of "yay" or "nay." The charter was adopted by the Board.

Performance Measures Continued (Information)

Monica continued the discussion on preliminary metrics of success focusing on quantitative and qualitative performance measures in the Community Input and Transparent Decision-Making categories.

Ericka called for input from the Board on how to improve or add to the list.

- Sprinavasa said the nuance of the language matters. How do we measure input that's been received vs. information that's been integrated? She called for distinction between "informed" and "involved" and said she'd like to hear more about the process and plan to integrate information that's been shared into decision-making.
- Sprinavasa also asked how decision-making impacts are going to be quantified.
 - Monica responded the team has a lot to learn from the CM/GC's work with COAC and how they documented things. She believes they can expand on that work and agreed the conversation should continue in future meetings. Monica plans to bring these questions back to the HAAB for more input.
- Sprinavasa asked how educating ODOT staff is leading to action and how the Board and team are going to measure action differently than the past.
 - Monica responded the team would be bringing it back to the group for further discussion and planning.
- Dr. Richard asked how a true equity empowerment lens would be implemented with a focus on business and suggested the equity and empowerment lens be spelled out clearly and early in the process.

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- Keith echoed Richard and Sprinavasa's sentiments and added there's a lack of trust that will remain until ODOT proves to the community they can be trusted. He expressed a desire for evidence the community will be respected and valued.
- Ericka said this is a great place for Board members with capacity to spend additional time in the community to drill down into those things. Kevin Modica shared in the chat there are elders and community leaders who would be thrilled to share this information.
 - Kevin agreed that ODOT should show up for the community and, outside of decision-making, acknowledge they're informed of the community's needs and desires.
- John Washington commented he wants to see more room made for innovation and experiential reality among some of the quantitative measures.
- Dr. Richard said he hopes the qualitative measures can hold equal weight with the quantitative, and that the narrative data will be critical to success of the project. He emphasized the lived experience and qualitative narrative component should be held at a sacred level and relying too much on the quantitative will move the project away from the restorative justice they're working for.

Design Collaboration Forum

Ericka and James McGrath called for the Board's thoughts on last week's design meeting.

- Keith said he thinks the design team was listening and heard the Board's concerns. James Washington seconded that, and said he's interested to see what the team comes up with after the prior week's discussions.

James reminded the group the design team is currently focusing on covers, streets, sides and undersides, with sides and undersides being the focus of tonight's meeting. James used a virtual whiteboard space to facilitate discussion on the underside of Russell Street.

Undersides

- Sprinavasa asked the design team how they've incorporated houselessness advocates and the houseless situation into their design ideas. James said they have not been talking to advocates about the houseless population and it's an important discussion; the team has been having discussions about designing spaces that are welcoming to anyone who wants to enjoy those spaces. He acknowledged the designs would need partnerships so people will still feel safe and want to be in the underside-spaces without being hostile to the houseless community.
- Sprinavasa noted that accessibility is important as well, and that people of the houseless community and disabled communities need to be integrated into these discussions. Bill Hart agreed and said these are conversations the design team is looking to have. James asked if the Board has thoughts on what would attract all ages to these spaces.
- Ericka said Board members have said they want to be innovative and creative and want to ensure every member of the community can participate. James acknowledged Sprinavasa by saying the team needs more collaborators.
- Sprinavasa said she would like to see data on what happens with long-term usage of under-bridge spaces and learn how this design relates. Marianne Zarkin responded the design team can reach out to people in Eugene about an under-bridge skate park there for comparison.
- John said he's excited about the versatility in the team's proposal. He suggested looking into Jumptown for comprehensive ideas around under-freeway designs. He also stressed the importance of security and safety in the under-bridge spaces. James

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acknowledged the design team has been looking for information from Jumptown and welcomed any unpublished information they might not have found yet.

- Kevin Modica also mentioned similar projects in Seattle.

Sides

- John said there's a lot of opportunity to work creatively with concrete and encouraged the design team to look more into concrete options. He asked how the team is considering graffiti.
 - Bill and James responded one possibility is to install a metal screen that can filter light to create patterns. Concrete seems more appropriate on the highway-facing side, but the design team wants to try something more detailed on the neighborhood-facing side.
- Sprinavasa said she liked the images of living walls and the importance of incorporating greenery on the school-facing side of the sound wall. She wondered about incorporating vertical gardens and added she loves murals, but they're stagnant. It would be ideal to rotate art installations to provide opportunities for engagement and education.
 - Bill confirmed the design team is looking into lighting options and the possibility of community volunteers.
 - James said the Rose Quarter Transit Center is a great area for some of Sprinavasa's ideas.
- Kevin liked the idea of interchangeable commissions for researching and designing some of the art and asked how technology can be utilized. He acknowledged the land is Indigenous land and the community has an obligation to be intentionally inclusive of Indigenous cultures.
 - James responded that multimedia displays may be more complex to install but should still be part of the discussion.
- Bryson said places with more foot traffic can incorporate more detail if the history of the space is going to be displayed.

Youth Engagement Opportunity (Information)

Ericka moved on to youth engagement and confirmed the HAAB and Camp Elso have been discussing youth engagement opportunities. She asked Sprinavasa to provide an overview of Camp Elso.

Ericka asked James about the potential partnership between the team and Camp Elso. James said there's a wealth of career training opportunities for youth in the year-long cohort, from construction through design through ownership. He continued that on the design side, there's endless opportunity and he and Sprinavasa have already brainstormed quite a bit. The Camp Elso team is interested in hearing from the HAAB about what they want first. Ericka reminded the group about the importance of leveraging youth involvement and opened the floor for discussion.

- Kevin asked about other youth programs that already exist in the community, such as POIC, Constructing Hope and SEI. He asked if only Camp Elso will be involved, or if they will be extending an invitation to other youth leadership organizations in the community.
 - Sprinavasa said Camp Elso is looking to facilitate and act as a connector, not to be the sole youth program involved. They planned their workshops to be open to all and would like HAAB members to get other youth organizations involved. She stressed it would be helpful for future time to be set aside for HAAB members

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and Camp Elso participants to connect. She clarified that Camp Elso will not encompass all youth engagement on the project, but rather they have been invited to *facilitate* youth engagement. Ericka shared there are people on the project team who are doing outreach and want to have a wider reach.

- Ericka confirmed time could be repurposed in future meetings to engage HAAB members about more specific conversations.

Next Steps/Adjourn

Ericka emphasized future Design Collaboration Forums can be structured however HAAB members would like to facilitate conversation. The Board will continue to shape the performance measures and design elements and provide direction on solutions for the highway and local streets. Ericka said it's been a great 2021 and thanked the group for their commitment and investment.

Adjourn

Ericka adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm.

Note: This meeting was hosted as a Zoom Meeting format that enabled Historic Albina Advisory Board members to unmute their microphones and use web-cameras to participate in the meeting. Public observers remained in "listen-only" mode and without access to video-sharing functions (attendees were able to view the presentation slides).