



I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee (ESC)

Meeting #3 Summary

MEETING DATE: September 28, 2020

MEETING TIME: 3:00-4:30PM

LOCATION: Zoom online meeting

This document is a summary of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee meeting. The [meeting presentation](#) and [recording](#) provide additional documentation of this meeting.

ESC Members in Attendance

ESC Chair: Alando Simpson, Vice Chair,
Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC)

Leah Horner- Governor's Office, Regional
Solutions Director and Jobs and Economy
Policy Advisor

Lynn Peterson- Metro, President

Dr. Ebony Amato- N/NE Community
Development Initiative

Marlon Holmes- N/NE Housing Strategy

Nate McCoy- National Association of
Minority Contractors, Executive Director

Brendan Finn- Oregon Department of
Transportation (ODOT), Urban Mobility
Office

Jana Jarvis- Oregon Trucking Associations,
President

Julia Brim-Edwards- Portland Public
Schools (PPS) Board Member

Doug Kelsey- TriMet, General Manager

Bryson Davis- Williams and Russell Project

Current ESC Members Not in Attendance

Robert Camarillo- Oregon Building Trades, Executive Secretary

Staff Members

Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee Facilitator

Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director

April deLeon-Galloway, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Public Involvement and Communications Lead

Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee Co-Facilitator

Susan Hayman, facilitation team support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Sarah Omlor, technical support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Sofia Alvarez-Castro, notetaking, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Guest Presenters

Sam Imperati, Independent Highway Cover Assessment facilitator, ICM Resolutions

Nolan Lienhart, Independent Highway Cover Assessment, ZGF

Steven Lewis, Independent Highway Cover Assessment, ZGF

Meeting Objectives

Meeting objectives included:

- Receive project update from ODOT
- Discuss and adopt Executive Steering Committee Charter and Values Statement
- Receive an introduction to the Project's Independent Highway Cover Assessment

Welcome, Introduction, Principles of Agreement

Dr. Steven Holt and ESC Chair Alando Simpson welcomed members to the third Executive Steering Committee meeting and invited a round of introductions. Facilitators briefly reminded the group of the principles of agreement.

Public Comment

No members of the public offered comment.

Director Update

Megan Channell, Project Director, provided a project update:

- On behalf of ODOT, Megan acknowledged the harm the construction of I-5 had on people of color, especially the Black Community in Oregon past and present. The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project is committed to addressing the past harms and wrongs by centering

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the voices of the Black community and working collaboratively and transparently to create a rejuvenated and reconnected historic Albina. The set of values the Executive Steering Committee adopts, along with ODOT, will guide the project and restorative justice will be the foundational value.

- Megan updated the committee on the project schedule, key milestones, sequencing, and timeline of different project aspects.
- Megan announced ODOT's intent to award the contract for Construction Manager/General Contractor to Hamilton Sundt, a joint venture with Raimore Construction. Notice to Proceed is expected for that team in October.
- The Community Opportunity Advisory Committee (COAC) is now the Community Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC), reflecting the group's updated role.
- The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has sunset. A new, 17-member committee, known as the Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB), will be convened to elevate the African American voices with historic ties to the Albina community. Recruitment will be underway soon, with the first meeting occurring in late 2020/early 2021.

Draft Charter and Governance

Dr. Holt introduced the following components of the draft charter, reminding members that the facilitators thoroughly reviewed the draft Charter with each of the Executive Steering Committee members and the Project Management Group prior to the meeting:

- Overview
- Charge
- Membership
- Decision-making
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Operational Agreements

Dr. Holt conducted a roll call to affirm the Charter; those present concurred, with the following additional suggestions:

- Julia Brim-Edwards requested explicitly calling out the impact I-5 has on Harriet Tubman Middle School students within the "Charge," to align with references to "harm" in the values.
- President Peterson asked the following process questions:
 - How does the Executive Steering Committee communicate recommendations and how are those considered by the OTC?
 - How does the Executive Steering Committee receive recommendations from the Historic Albina Advisory Committee and Community Oversight Advisory Committee? Will liaisons provide regular reports?
 - Will we get the independent cover assessment before the 30 percent design so that we can reflect it back to the values?

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No other changes were suggested to the draft Charter. Dr. Holt asked to defer those questions until after the discussion of the Values Statement.

Draft Values Statement

Dr. Holt reviewed components of the draft Values Statement (below), reminding members that the facilitators reviewed these draft values with each of the Executive Steering Committee members and the Project Management Group prior to the meeting:

- Restorative Justice
- Community Input and Transparent Decision-making
- Mobility Focused
- Climate Action and Improved Public Health

Dr. Holt asked committee members present if they agreed with the values as presented or if they had questions or comments. Dr. Holt conducted a roll call to affirm the draft Values Statement and all concurred, with the additional points:

- Doug Kelsey stated his support, with the caveat the values should include commitment to be attentive to fiscal realities. Several other Executive Steering Committee members echoed support for the reference to fiscal responsibility.
- Julia Brim-Edwards requested an extended or additional bullet point to the Climate Action and Improved Public Health Value: *“Air quality on the grounds of Harriet Tubman Middle School and the adjacent Albina Park is at a level that medical and public health professionals say is safe for children and youth.”*

Process Questions

Chair Simpson, Brendan Finn, and Megan Channell responded to the process questions raised during the draft Charter discussion. Their responses and additional ESC comments are summarized below:

- Executive Steering Committee Chair Simpson will serve as the connection to the OTC and help communicate committee recommendations to the OTC. The OTC will be giving direction on the Project based on the feedback and input recommendations from this group. President Peterson encouraged the committee to appoint a rotating or secondary chair, as it would be a disservice to the OTC not to hear directly from Executive Steering Committee members, and this would be a good opportunity to get members in front of the OTC.
- Regarding Historic Albina Advisory Board and Community Oversight Advisory Committee liaisons, the intent is to have the facilitators for both committees join at future Executive Steering Committee meetings to provide committee updates, input, and recommendations. President Peterson again encouraged individual members of those committees to attend and present at the Executive Steering Committee, in addition to facilitators.
- The independent cover assessment is underway and will be completed in Spring of 2021. The independent cover assessment team will provide a presentation this

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afternoon. There is time in the schedule to complete the independent assessment design process prior to 30% design.

Executive Steering Committee members in attendance agreed to the draft Values Statement as presented with revisions. Dr. Holt will distribute the adopted Charter and Values Statement with any additions for final confirmation.

Independent Highway Cover Assessment

Sam Imperati, Independent Highway Cover Assessment (ICA) facilitator, provided a [preliminary overview](#) of the cover evaluation, input process, and next steps, as summarized below:

- The team is composed of [ZGF](#) as the prime contractor with a core group of subconsultants including [Arup](#), [HR&A](#), and [ICMResolutions](#). The team is divided into the following sub-groups: design, engagement, governance, technical and assessment.
- The ESC is the client and drives the ICA work – not ODOT. The team will be responsive to the ESC, so our “why” is the same as the committee’s.
- The scope of the Independent highway cover assessment comes directly from the draft values outlined by the Executive Steering Committee.
- The Independent highway cover assessment process will answer three questions asked by the OTC:
 - How can this project serve community aspirations on the highway covers and areas immediately adjacent to the highway covers, within the area of potential impact as defined in the Environmental Assessment?
 - What modification to the current design and configurations of the highway covers would be needed to reflect a broader community vision for development of the Project area?
 - Are there any other architectural and engineering considerations to feasibly promote economic development and growth potential, consistent with the community’s vision?
- Work is based on a set of scenarios:
 - Base case: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment
 - Scenario 1: Limited to the NEPA Environmental Assessment Area of Potential Impact (API)
 - Scenario 2: May extend beyond the NEPA Environmental Assessment API
 - Scenario 3: Determined by the Executive Steering Committee
- The ICA team’s organizational chart includes OTC, ODOT project director, Highway Cover Coordinating Committee (HC3), Executive Steering Committee, Independent assessment team, Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB,) and community and stakeholder workshops.

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- The Executive Steering Committee will direct the ICA team in assessing potential highway cover designs for the ESC's recommendation to the OTC for direction and approval.
- The HC3 with representatives from ODOT, Metro, and Portland Public Schools will serve as the staff working group to support the ICA process and it will review and provide input on the deliverables to the Executive Steering Committee. The HC3 will provide a forum for the discussion of ICA work progression, schedule, change management and other relevant topics.
- Community Workshops:
 - These events will be online and utilize a variety of methods to ensure collaborative and engaging experiences that allow for authentic engagement. The team will summarize these workshops and present the feedback to the HAAB, solicit their input, and then present the feedback to the ESC to consider.
- Third-Party Stakeholder meetings (contingency in contract) occur during work sessions or independent from work sessions to ensure marginalized voices are heard and to deepen community understanding of the potential benefits and burdens associated with the cover options.
- Process milestones include consultant team kickoff, Executive Steering Committee introduction, work session 1 (listen/assess), work session 2 (ideate/generate), work session 3 (evaluate/refine), recommendation to the OTC, and OTC direction to ODOT and I-5 Rose Quarter team.
 - Questions addressed at Work Session 1:
 - What are the community values and desired outcomes?
 - What constraints and opportunities should guide creation of scenarios?
 - What metrics should be used to measure success?
 - Questions addressed at Work Session 2:
 - How can a new experience and function support a restorative community on and around the highway covers?
 - What feasible improvements can the freeway project make to sustain an urban neighborhood for the historically impacted Albina community?
Should a third scenario be created to address additional opportunities to meet community priorities, or to address shortcoming in scenario one or two?
 - Questions addressed at Work Session 3:
 - What financial and operational partnerships and tools may be needed to finance and implement desired improvements?
 - How well does each scenario serve the community vision and outcomes?
- Independent Cover Assessment team independence:

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- The ICA team is contractually obligated to maintain its independence from ODOT and take its direction from the ESC.
- The contract provides for the following:
 - All reasonable efforts to maintain its professional independence
 - Confer with the Executive Steering Committee to support the committee's deliberations and recommendation to the OTC
 - The consultant is solely responsible for the analysis
 - HC3 has a coordination role; including Executive Steering Committee member staff to support independent assessment team in the development and refinement of information to be reported to the Executive Steering Committee and OTC
- Sam Imperati explained his unique role in monitoring the ICA Team's independence.
- The Independent Cover Assessment pillars of evaluation comes from the Executive Steering Committee's values and outcomes through which the assessment will be conducted. The integrity of this process relies on the transparency and use of data to drive decisions.
- ESC member offered the following observations:
 - If it is our role to provide ICA guidance there are a lot of decisions that have already been made to get the ODOT contract and Scope. We have all had a little discussion about this, but we have not reviewed your scope up front. I feel slightly at a disadvantage already.
 - How do we put the oversight of your independence and that empowerment back into the ESC? Suggestion: During the ICA 1-on-1s, the ESC should think about how we make sure you are "protected" in order to be able to carry on independent assessment and not have backlash against you?
 - The ESC needs to have a facilitated conversation with you to get to these answers.
- Sam Imperati noted the ICA team will work with Dr. Holt and explore to what extent, if any, the ICA roles, and responsibilities be spelled out in the ESC charter.
- President Peterson said she wants more participation and more proactive governance, so the ESC is assured the ICA team has the protections needed to remain independent.
- Doug Kelsey noted:
 - He would like to better understand the governance and independence issues.
 - He asked if the ICA team reported any relationships or conflicts of interest through prior clients and other work. A declaration of ICA team independence is important.
- Sam Imperati noted these issues will be raised during the ESC member meetings and the team will report back to the ESC.
- Nate McCoy added:
 - The community does not always trust government so what mechanisms are in place to build trust and is there a way for ESC to be embodied in the community conversations?

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- Suggest having the data tie back directly to goals vs. outcomes. How do we ensure that the community feels like we are getting to the things that impact them going forward?
- Nolan Lienhart indicated the ICA team will write assessment memos and they will be public, but the actual recommendation to OTC will come from the ESC – not from the ICA team. We connect with you closely and frequently, so you have a recommendation that you think has value and appropriately represents the community.

ESC members noted that they appreciated the efforts to maintain the Independent Cover Assessment team's neutrality and separation from the rest of the Project.

Next Steps

Dr. Holt thanked committee members for their participation and asked whether members should consider two-hour meetings in the future, rather than 90 minutes. Executive Steering Committee members stated a preference for 90-minute meetings and were open to the idea of added meetings rather than extending the meeting length. Dr. Holt adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30 pm.

Adjourn

Note: The meeting was hosted as a Zoom Webinar format that enabled ESC members to unmute their microphones and use web-cameras to participate in the meeting. Attendees, or public observers, remained in "listen-only" mode and without access to video functions.