



I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board

Meeting #5 Summary

MEETING DATE: April 6, 2021

MEETING TIME: 4:00 – 6:30PM

LOCATION: Zoom online meeting

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

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Andrew Campbell
- Andrew Clarke
- Leslie Goodlow
- Kevin Modica
- Pastor Richard Probasco
- Dr. Carlos Richard
- John Washington

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Keith Edwards
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Carl Talton
- Estelle Love-Lavespere
- Sprinavasa Brown
- Serena Stoudamire-Wesley

Staff Members

- Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator
- Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee Facilitator
- Johnell Bell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Community Oversight Advisory Committee facilitator
- Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director
- Monica Blanchard, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Deputy Director
- Steve Drahota, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- James McGrath, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

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- April deLeon-Galloway, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Communications and Public Involvement Manager
- Alex Cousins, Board support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Natalie Warren, technical support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Erin Kielhorn, technical support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Emily Wolff, notetaker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Guest Presenters

- Alando Simpson, Executive Steering Committee Chair and Oregon Transportation Commission Vice Chair
- Jeana Wooley, Independent Highway Cover Assessment Facilitator
- Grace Crunican, Seattle Department of Transportation, Environmental Peer Review Panel Facilitator
- Dr. Song Bai, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Environmental Peer Review Panel Member
- Deborah Jue, Wilson Ihrig, Inc., Environmental Peer Review Panel Member
- Dr. Beverly Scott, Beverly Scott Associates, Environmental Peer Review Panel Member
- Jessica Stanton, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Rebranding Consultant

Agenda

- Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review
- Public Comment
- Committee Updates: COAC and ESC
- Independent Highway Cover Assessment (ICA): Workshop #2 Outreach and Online Open House
- Project Update: Air Quality Recap
- Project Update: Planning History – The Baseline Explained
- Project Brand Identity Options
- Next Steps

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka Warren, Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, welcomed participants, reviewed the principles of agreement and provided an overview of the meeting.

Megan Channell, Project Director, introduced the Executive Steering Committee Chair and Oregon Transportation Commission Vice Chair Alando Simpson. Chair Simpson

acknowledged the work that the board has been focusing on and how important it is to transportation planning nationwide. He reinforced ODOT's commitment to correcting past wrongs and thanked board members for all their work on this project. Chair Simpson announced that as part of doing business differently ODOT recently committed to the largest contract award for a Black-owned contractor in the United States. He also noted that the project will be moving forward in design and will not be conducting any further environmental assessment.

Committee Updates: COAC and ESC

Megan provided an update on the Community Oversight Advisory Committee's work focused on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise sections of the Diversity Plan that is under development this year.

Dr. Steven Holt, Executive Steering Committee Facilitator, noted that the committee received a similar presentation to what has been presented to the board during the April meetings. The committee heard project updates, an update from Portland Public Schools, and a recap of Work Session #1 and a preview of Work Session #2 from the Independent Cover Assessment team. The committee is interested in collaborating with the board on the design of the highway covers.

Public Comment

- Aaron Brown, from No More Freeways, highlighted a recent lawsuit filed against the project and requested additional time to provide testimony at a future meeting. See I-5 Rose Quarter Project – Historic Albina Advisory Board Meeting (April 6, 2021), [\[video\]](#), 25:41

ICA Workshop #2 Outreach and Online Open House

Jeana Woolley, Independent Cover Assessment Team Facilitator, provided an overview of the participation of Work Session #1 and asked for support from board members to boost participation in Online Open House #2 from the Black community.

Project Update

Air Quality Recap

Megan explained how environmental review for the project was conducted and the timeline for the process. The environmental phase concluded when the Federal Highway Administration issued a [Finding of No Significant Impact](#) for the project. The Environmental Assessment evaluated a wide range of impacts, including those for transportation, climate change (greenhouse gas emissions), health (air quality and noise), and the social and built environment.

Megan introduced Grace Crunican, Environmental Peer Review Facilitator, and her panel members to describe the Environmental Peer Review process that evaluated the Environmental Assessment analysis and findings for air quality, noise, and greenhouse

gas emissions. Grace noted that noise will increase with or without the project and air quality will actually slightly improve with the project. She explained the process and scope for the peer review and the panel's conclusion that the analysis was consistent with environmental regulations. Grace noted the panel's recommendations related to potential short-term impacts from construction.

Deborah Jue, Environmental Peer Review Panel Member, summarized the findings of the noise analysis which concluded that the proposed sound walls will help to reduce the noise at Harriet Tubman Middle School.

Dr. Beverly Scott, Environmental Peer Review Panel Member, reviewed the other considerations of the panel related to community benefits, as well her appreciation for ODOT's transparency. She emphasized that this project is going to require cross-agency coordination and collaboration to ensure restorative justice for the community.

- John Washington asked how much noise will increase with or without the project, particularly near the school, and how adding the highway cover affects sound.
 - Deborah responded noise analysis compares existing and future values to the Federal safety threshold. If there is sound exceeding that threshold the analysis must look at whether applying a barrier will be effective in reducing noise. Sound walls must provide a minimum noise reduction. The panel found that the two sound walls proposed as part of the project were sufficient to reduce potential impacts. Highway covers can redirect sound toward the openings; however, the project analysis took a conservative approach and did not assume this potential benefit in the findings.

Planning History – The Baseline Explained

Steve Drahota, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team, reviewed the existing conditions and current flow of traffic and why they need improvements. Through a series of renderings depicting the flow of traffic, he explained the benefits of reconfiguring this area.

James McGrath, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team, presented the baseline concept, including the highway cover extend, and talked about the complexity of the design and engineering of this concept. James talked about a few concepts open space and public buildings that were analyzed and considered.

- John Washington expressed he is not for the park concept, because of the potential for gentrification, but appreciate the multiple opportunities for the community to reconvene in the mixed-use concept.

Project Brand Identity

Jessica Stanton, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Rebranding Consultant, explained the reason for the rebrand and the process for creating and evaluating draft brand options. Board members expressed a preference for the "Bloom" option.

Next Steps

Ericka reviewed the six-month work plan and key upcoming dates. Ericka thanked committee members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Adjourn

Note: The 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. Attendees, or public observers, remained in “listen-only” mode and without access to video-sharing functions (attendees were able to view the presentation slides).

Historic Albina Advisory Board Response Matrix

ODOT is committed to being held accountable to the community, in particular the historic Albina community, for actions we take in response to the feedback we've heard. This matrix is a living document that will be updated following every meeting of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board. The matrix lists specific information requests, action items, and project recommendations and ideas ODOT has received, and did not address directly as part of the meeting, from the Board and documents how ODOT is responding. For a complete record of the discussions from each meeting, see the summary for each past meeting posted on the [events page](#).

Timing Key

Near Term: Zero to six months

Long Term: Six months to one year

During Construction: Activities to take place during or specific to construction

Out of Scope: Beyond ODOT purview, or requires times or resources from other community or agency partners

Date	Source	Comment	Response	Timing	Responsible Party	Status
4/6/2021	Leslie Goodlow	Do you have a link or sample language that we can send to our networks to encourage participation in the Independent Assessment Team's online open house?	The Independent Cover Assessment team's second online open house opening April 16 through May 3 will be available at http://www.albinahighwaycovers.com/open-house/ . We will be sending a notification kit to the board that includes sample language for email notifications and social media posts.	Near Term	Independent Cover Assessment Team	Complete
4/6/2021	John Washington	Can we get a copy of the Environmental Peer Review Report? How closely related is the public testimony referencing the lawsuit regarding the project and air quality to what was presented as part of the air quality recap for the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Peer Review?	The Environmental Peer Review Report is available in the project library located here . Three community based advocacy groups including No More Freeways, Neighbors for Clean Air, and the Eliot Neighborhood Association filed a lawsuit against ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration on April 2, 2021. The lawsuit argues that the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project fails to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and wants ODOT to do a more thorough review of environmental impacts, particularly related to greenhouse gas emissions and air quality. This lawsuit is in response to the Environmental Assessment analysis prepared for environmental review that was presented to the board at the April 6 meeting. As the board heard in that meeting, the Environmental Peer Review process convened a panel of national air and noise quality experts from around the country to review ODOT's methodologies and findings to determine if the Environmental Assessment analyses were conducted correctly. The expert reviewers agreed with the findings and did not suggest that ODOT conduct additional environmental studies. The Federal Highway Administration marked the environmental review phase complete by issuing the Finding of No Significant Impact . For reference, the board received a one-page summaries describing the Environmental Assessment, the Environmental Peer Review, and key project air quality findings and actions as part of the packet for the April 6 meeting.	Near Term	ODOT	Complete

<p>4/6/2021</p>	<p>John Washington</p>	<p>Where does noise increase from the project and by how much? Does it increase near the school and by how much? What is the project doing to try and reduce noise impacts?</p>	<p>Information on noise impacts can be found in the Noise Study Technical Report. The Area of Potential Impact (API) used to evaluate traffic noise was developed by applying a 500-foot buffer to the Project Area. Table 7 starting on page 35 lists existing noise levels and future noise levels with or without the project for a number of specific locations within the Area of Potential Impact. A map of these locations is provided in Appendix A to the technical report. R4-M4 is the site of Lillis Albina City Park and R5 is the site of Harriet Tubman Middle School. As shown in the table below, noise levels increase slightly at both sites in the future with the project.</p> <p>Table 7. Predicted Peak Hour Sound Levels for the Existing and Future Conditions (L_{eq} - dBA)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Receiver (R) - Monitoring Location</th> <th>Activity Category</th> <th>Current Land Use Designations</th> <th>NAAC (dBA)</th> <th>Number of Receptors</th> <th>Existing Noise Levels: Year 2017 (dBA)²</th> <th>No-Build Alternative Noise Levels: Year 2045 (dBA)²</th> <th>Build Alternative Noise Levels: Year 2045 (dBA)²</th> <th>Build Alternative (Year 2045) Noise Increase Over Existing Level (dBA)</th> <th>Build Alternative (Year 2045) Noise Increase Over No-Build Level (dBA)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R1-M6</td> <td>B</td> <td>Single-Family Residence</td> <td>65</td> <td>1</td> <td>73</td> <td>73</td> <td>73</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R2</td> <td>C</td> <td>Medical Facility Exterior</td> <td>65</td> <td>1</td> <td>69</td> <td>69</td> <td>70</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R3</td> <td>C</td> <td>Medical Facility Exterior</td> <td>65</td> <td>1</td> <td>69</td> <td>69</td> <td>69</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R4-M4</td> <td>C</td> <td>Park</td> <td>65</td> <td>1</td> <td>72</td> <td>72</td> <td>73</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R5</td> <td>D</td> <td>School Interior</td> <td>50</td> <td>1</td> <td>49</td> <td>49</td> <td>50</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Section 7 Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures describes the mitigation measures to reduce noise levels where impacts occur with the project. Two sound walls are proposed to reduce noise at Lillis Albina Park, Harriet Tubman Middle School, and residential neighborhoods near I-5. Full details of the mitigation analysis, including figures depicting the locations of proposed mitigation features, are presented in Appendix G. Additional information on noise impacts can be found in these reports Finding of No Significant Impact and Revised Environmental Assessment, and the Noise Analysis of Eastbank Esplanade.</p> <p>We will provide the Board with a fact sheet including more information on noise key findings, potential impacts, and actions the project team is working on to reduce impacts from noise before the next board meeting.</p>	Receiver (R) - Monitoring Location	Activity Category	Current Land Use Designations	NAAC (dBA)	Number of Receptors	Existing Noise Levels: Year 2017 (dBA) ²	No-Build Alternative Noise Levels: Year 2045 (dBA) ²	Build Alternative Noise Levels: Year 2045 (dBA) ²	Build Alternative (Year 2045) Noise Increase Over Existing Level (dBA)	Build Alternative (Year 2045) Noise Increase Over No-Build Level (dBA)	R1-M6	B	Single-Family Residence	65	1	73	73	73	0	0	R2	C	Medical Facility Exterior	65	1	69	69	70	1	1	R3	C	Medical Facility Exterior	65	1	69	69	69	0	0	R4-M4	C	Park	65	1	72	72	73	1	1	R5	D	School Interior	50	1	49	49	50	1	1			
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4/6/2021	Andrew Campbell	Why didn't the fact sheets in our packet include the quantitative data from the environmental review work?	<p>We included several fact sheets to provide background and key points related to some of the data that would be highlighted in the air quality recap presentation or in responses to questions from the board. The Environmental Assessment and Environmental Peer Review summaries provided details not covered in the meeting as what these processes are, what they typically include, and who participated. The Air Quality fact sheet provided some additional information on the key findings from project analysis and the actions the project team is taking toward reducing potential air quality impacts in response to questions from the board at the last meeting.</p> <p>Detailed quantitative information is available in the Environmental Assessment. Please, refer to the following pages for Air Quality (pages 26-28), Climate Change - Greenhouse Gas (pages 33-35), and Noise (pages 51-55).</p> <p>Detailed quantitative information is available in the Environmental Peer Review. Please refer to the following pages for Noise (page 2), Air Quality (page 5), and Greenhouse Gas (page 7).</p> <p>Additional information can be found on the I-5 Rose Quarter March 2019 Open House Posters related to key findings for short-term impacts during construction, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, multimodal transportation safety, motor vehicle transportation operations, active transportation (bicycle and pedestrians), transit, environmental justice, and parks and historic resources.</p>	Near Term	ODOT	Complete
3/16/2021	Sharon Gary-Smith	Can you provide more information on the considerations for the Hancock Extension to demonstrate why selecting one or the other would achieve more benefits (e.g., uses, connections to potential redevelopment or replacing lost housing)?	We will continue to provide updates at Board meetings regarding our work with the Paramount Apartments developer on the Hancock Extension design. We will also invite Edlen & Co. back to a future meeting to provide more information on the opportunities available with the different design options.	Near to Long-Term	ODOT, Project Stakeholders	In Progress
2/2/2021	Dr. Carlos Richard John Washington Keith Edwards	For the highway cover examples, have there been any studies documenting air quality before and after the enhancements were made?	The Independent Cover Assessment Team is still researching whether the examples presented or other highway cover projects documented air quality conditions before and after the projects were built. The team will provide more information on this research at a later date.	Near Term	Independent Cover Assessment Team	In Progress

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1/12/2021	Keith Edwards	How are young people included in this process?	<p>The project team will continue to look into opportunities for engaging an advisory committee student representative and will explore other strategies for increasing youth outreach and engagement as part of community involvement efforts in 2021.</p> <p>Youth representatives have been included in the workshops conducted by the Independent Cover Assessment Team. Additionally, the Board will hear a presentation on design options for the project rebranding effort at the next meeting on April 6 that includes information about the youth focus group engaged to provide input on the design options.</p>	Near Term	ODOT, Facilitator	In Progress/Ongoing
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