

HISTORIC ALBINA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #21 SUMMARY

Date: September 20, 2022
Time: 4:00–6:00 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

- Keith Edwards
- Andrew Campbell
- Dr. Carlos Richard
- Andrew Clarke
- Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon
- John Washington
- Sprinavasa Brown
- Bryson Davis

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Kevin Modica
- Carl Talton
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Leslie Goodlow
- Estelle Lavespere

Staff and 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
- Mike Baker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team Project Manager
- Monika Johnson, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Amy Ruiz, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- James McGrath, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Urban Design Team
- Natalie Warner, Technical Support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Logan Cullums, Notetaker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Agenda

- Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review
- Public Comment
- Project Updates
- Public Poll Results
- Summer Design Survey Results
- Next Steps, Adjourn

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka Warren, Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, welcomed board and participants, provided an overview of the meeting and reminded everyone of the phone numbers for public comment and technical assistance.

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

Public Comment

Four written comments were provided in advance of the meeting. Two verbal public comments were received during the meeting.

- Katherine Doherty-Chapman, PBOT - The city is currently looking into a new type of parking program in the Eliot neighborhood and would like to make everyone aware of the new committee being recruited.
- Dean Suhr, Vote Before Tolls Committee - Not convinced there is regional acceptance of the funding proposal for this project. Tolling is coming, and it will be a new source of funding for ODOT. Signature gathering for the Vote Before Tolls initiative will resume next month.

Project Updates

Mike Baker, Project Manager for the Owner's Representative Team, provided an update on the Connecting Communities grant application. The Rose Quarter project team is applying for a capital construction grant under this federal program. This application is in partnership with the City of Portland, and in close collaboration with the Albina Vision Trust. The City and Albina Vision Trust are also applying for a planning grant for the project. Mike asked for the support of the HAAB on both grant applications.

Monica Blanchard, Deputy Project Director, then shared a schedule update. Over the last several months, the project team has been working on the draft supplemental environmental assessment. The draft document will be ready to publish by the end of October, which will kick off a public comment period, open house and public hearing. In addition, early work packages A and B will be

hitting the 90% design milestone later this year. The schedule is still on track to start construction on early work packages A and B in late 2023.

Sharon Deleo, Project Manager for the City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation, introduced herself to the HAAB. She noted that the city is happy to be back on the project and working with the HAAB.

Monika Johnson with Espousal Strategies provided a COAC update. After a summer break, the COAC most recently met on September 15. Moving forward, the COAC would like to focus on creating jobs in the Black community, as well as growing DBEs. At the September meeting, COAC members encouraged the project leadership to invite the Moda Center, Emmanuel Hospital and other nearby stakeholders into their discussions.

Discussion:

Keith Edwards asked if minutes have been distributed for the September COAC meeting.

- Monika responded that the meeting summary has not yet been finalized. Once finalized, Monika will send the summary to Ericka for distribution to the HAAB.

Dr. Richard asked for additional context about the COAC's discussion on bringing additional stakeholders to the table.

- Bill Bruce said that Mr. Posey provided that comment at the COAC meeting. Mr. Posey said that for a project of this magnitude, the voices of entities that will be immediately impacted by construction work are important.
- Dr. Richard said he would like to discuss in more detail with Mr. Posey if possible.
- Ericka responded that the project team is looking at opportunities for the HAAB and COAC to meet together in the coming months.

Public Poll Results

Amy Ruiz with Strategies 360 presented the results of this summer's public poll, which was conducted to gauge public opinion about the project in the Portland metro area.

- John Washington asked if anything was shared with poll respondents about opportunities for land acquisitions.
 - Amy said no, this was not a component of the public poll.
 - Ericka added that this will be a big focus in upcoming conversations with the City of Portland and Albina Vision Trust.
- John then asked about how the question of safety was phrased.
 - Amy replied that this question was focused on traffic safety. It asked, "How safe do you feel when driving on I-5?"
 - Ericka added that at past meetings, Mr. Modica has brought up his concerns with the framing of personal safety in this heavily gentrified area.
- Dr. Richard, John Washington and Keith Edwards all expressed concerns with the framing of the safety questions.

- Amy responded that these questions were aimed at understanding broad public opinions.
- Bryson noted his concerns about the question related to project components. These components appeal to different groups – for example, auxiliary lanes have broader benefit, whereas the highway cover is more beneficial for neighborhood residents. Bryson also noted that most respondents are people who primarily interact with the neighborhood by driving through in their cars. He expressed concern that context will get lost when looking at the community as a whole.
 - Amy responded that auxiliary lanes were the top choice of project components across all demographic groups.
 - John Washington noted that it seems odd that a pedestrian would be concerned about auxiliary lanes.
 - Amy responded that the poll asked how people primarily used the space, so someone who is primarily a pedestrian may also drive.

Ericka noted that she will send HAAB members links to the full report on poll results. She then asked James to present on the summer design survey results.

Summer Design Survey Results

James reminded HAAB members that they have been provided with a report summarizing results from the summer design survey. He then moved into a discussion of specific design elements that require HAAB recommendations.

At Wall 15, the design team proposes frames that can support future treatments including the historic photos and rotating murals. This allows design and construction to move forward while providing more time to determine the specific details of the artwork.

- John Washington expressed concern that there are too many moving parts in this scenario, and he noted that it is already hard enough to maintain the existing artwork in the area.
- James responded that this concern is what drove the initial discussions at this wall. However, the HAAB expressed a strong interest in integrating artwork at this location.
- Andrew Clarke added that he is very interested in beautification, but he wants things to be simple and easy to maintain. He likes the second option on the Miro board with the Albina sign, historic photos and plants.
- John Washington seconded Andrew Clarke's comments.
- Sprinavasa also expressed concerns about the potential for tagging at Wall 15.

James said that he hears the preference for the second option on the Miro board. First, the design team needs to know if the HAAB supports the frame concept. HAAB members provided unanimous support for the framework.

Ericka then moved into a discussion of the lettering at Wall 15. The two text options with the most public support were “Albina” and “Historic Albina.”

- Keith Edwards said that he has mixed feelings about the text options but leans toward Historic Albina.
- Andrew Campbell said that he is also leaning toward Historic Albina.
- Andrew Clarke added that this is a historic area and that in other historic districts, the present is still there even though the past is acknowledged.
- Bryson added that he also favors Historic Albina.
- Dr. Amato said that she sees the value of both and is okay with going with the majority opinion.
- Sprinavasa and John Washington both said that they feel similarly to Dr. Amato.

James then noted that Adinkra symbols are the most popular option for wall patterns. The design team recommends incorporating five Adinkra symbols. Ericka asked if the HAAB members approve of the consistent application of Adinkra symbols on the walls, and HAAB members provided their unanimous support. Ericka then asked if there is agreement on the five symbols that were discussed previously. The HAAB provided their support to move forward with the five Adinkra symbols.

James noted that the backlit metal letters were the preference of the broader community as well as the Black respondents. HAAB members voted in favor of this option.

James then noted that the public preference for bridge lettering text is “Historic Albina: Street Name.” This preference held for all respondents as well as Black respondents. HAAB members voted in favor of the “Historic Albina: Street Name” option.

Ericka added that there are other organizations engaged in placemaking through the project area that the team is building relationships with. Sprinavasa said she would like to continue thinking through this concept of collaborative placemaking.

James asked for a snap decision on which column collar tile option HAAB members prefer. The HAAB had previously discussed these column collar options, but the two designs have different sizes of tile. HAAB members preferred the option with larger tiles.

Next Steps / Adjourn

Ericka reviewed the next steps for the project. The project is currently on a very tight timeline to apply for the Connecting Communities grant, so HAAB members should look out for the draft letter of support. Ericka also noted that there is an event on Saturday, September 24 with Albina Vision Trust, and she will pass along that event information to HAAB members.

Dr. Holt closed out the meeting by expressing his appreciation for the HAAB members’ investment and time. He thanked the HAAB members for their voice and leadership.

Ericka adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Note: This meeting was hosted in an online 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).