Overview

The Community Walk & Bike Ride was an opportunity to guide the public through the project area, both on bike and foot, to help people see the current issues and visualize the proposed improvements. Groups toured the area to several viewpoints where ODOT and City of Portland staff explained improvements, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and give suggestions. There were around 32 attendees in total, with an even split between those attending the walk and bike ride. Sign language interpretation was provided for the hearing impaired.

Introductions

Upon entering the Stingray Café, attendees were asked to sign in and take a tour map of their choosing: a walking tour map or a biking tour map, depending on which tour they planned to go on. Coffee and pastries were available to attendees while waiting for the event to begin. ODOT Project Manager Megan Channell and PBOT Section Manager Mauricio Leclerc gathered the attention of the group for a project overview. Mauricio described the history of the project, how ODOT and the City of Portland formed a partnership, and how the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project is in conjunction with the N/NE Quadrant Plan. Megan explained the purpose of the project and each of the improvements. ODOT Transit and Active Transportation Liaison Jessica Horning gave a safety briefing before prompting the two groups to separate and head out on their tours.

Walk & Bike Ride

Both the walk and the bike ride stopped at key points for viewing and discussing proposed
improvements. These improvements include:

- I-5 ramp-to-ramp (auxiliary) lanes & shoulders
- Highway covers
- Hancock-Dixon crossing
- I-5 southbound on-ramp relocation
- Clackamas bike & pedestrian crossing
- Local street, bicycle & pedestrian improvements

In addition, the bike ride group discussed connections to current bike facilities in the area. While on the bike ride and the walk, the project team addressed questions about technical elements of the project, along with concerns about environmental issues such as noise and air quality. There were many discussions about opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians in the area and what the improved facilities could include. There was also discussion around how the project could enhance community connections.

Staff collected questions and issues from individual discussions. These, along with other questions, are being addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the project website (http://i5rosequarter.org/news-library/ -- FAQ update coming soon).

After the walk and the bike ride, attendees were invited to return to the café to talk more with project team members about specific interests and concerns. Display boards about the project and fact sheets were available to view for additional information.