

HISTORIC ALBINA ADVISORY BOARD (HAAB) MEETING #24 SUMMARY

Date: April 18, 2023
Time: 4:00–5:00 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

- Dr. Ebony Amato–Blackmon
- Andrew Campbell
- Bryson Davis
- Leslie Goodlow
- John Washington
- Dr. Carlos Richard

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Sprinavasa Brown
- Andrew Clarke
- Keith Edwards
- Estelle Lavespere
- Kevin Modica
- Carl Talton
- Winta Yohannes

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 Strategic Advisor
- Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director
- Patricia Diefenderfer, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Rachael Hoy, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Shawnea Posey, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation
- Caitlin Reff, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation
- Natalie Warner, Technical Support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner’s Representative Team
- Kassie McKnight, Notetaker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner’s Representative Team

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
- Public Comment
- Project Updates
- Next Steps, Adjourn

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka Warren, Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, welcomed the board and participants and explained this would be a brief meeting but an important opportunity to reconnect. Ericka provided an overview of the agenda and 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

No members of the public provided a verbal comment during the public comment period.

One written public comment was received prior to the meeting, which was distributed to members.

Project Updates

Ericka mentioned that several HAAB members were unable to attend the meeting due to illness and travel but had sent their regards to their HAAB colleagues. In addition, Ericka briefly mentioned efforts underway to expand the Board, seeking those with different professional lenses and expertise and who would complement the work already being done by current board members.

Megan Channell, Project Director, provided several project updates, starting with a recap of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA). The project is in the middle of its SEA process, evaluating the Proposed Hybrid 3 Cover Concept. Megan gave an overview of what an SEA timeline process consists of and then explained that the project is currently reviewing a total of 921 public comments, capturing themes from those comments and then drafting responses to those themes in a document called the Comment Summary Report.

Megan highlighted several of the broader key themes, including questions about traffic congestion and multimodal and pedestrian safety, specifically where highway ramps intersect with the local street system. Additionally, there is interest in community character, support for the highway cover design and questions about air quality.

Megan reminded everyone that this process is done in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, including work being done on design refinements that could be made based on

the public comments received. Due to the potential design refinements, the project brought several key stakeholders together, including the HAAB, Rip City Management, City of Portland, Metro and Albina Vision Trust. Stakeholders discussed things like pedestrian safety, event management and broader district character. The project held a number of policy and technical workshops between November and now to work through design refinement options. Megan reported that a final meeting of the principal group of stakeholders solidified everyone's desire to move forward and work together to find solutions. Now that the principal group process has concluded, the work of finalizing and incorporating design refinements into the SEA is moving back to the project team with the intention of recentering the HAAB as the community voice.

Megan shared some of the possible design refinements, including the reincorporation of the pedestrian/bicycle bridge and changes to the southbound off-ramp near the Moda Center. Megan reiterated the importance of ensuring all of the refinements are technically sound, with the hope that the project will complete the environmental review process by the end of 2023, if not sooner.

Ericka paused and asked for questions. There were none.

Megan thanked HAAB members for their participation in the design refinement process, recognizing their commitment was above and beyond.

Megan continued the discussion by covering updates to the Equitable Compensation Program, thanking HAAB members for their patience throughout this process. Payments have officially gone out to the board members who elected to receive gift cards. Those payments cover through March of 2023. Those waiting on checks will do the same. The project team is working with the Office of Equity and Civil Rights to make the check option available soon. Moving forward, all post-March 2023 payments will be by check. The next round of payments will come in late June and then resume a quarterly schedule. Megan affirmed that ODOT is always open to feedback on this process.

Discussion:

- » Leslie Goodlow wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to make changes to payments.
- / Megan emphasized that HAAB members are the project's community consultants and that they deserve the payments, and that, hopefully, the checks will make it even easier.
- / Ericka emphasized the value of each member's expertise.

Next Steps / Adjourn

Ericka began by saying how exciting it is to be working alongside city partners, the Architecture & Engineering, and the Urban Design team to find what is possible and feasible in regard to highway cover design. Ericka thanked everyone for their extra effort and involvement, emphasizing how important this will be for generations to come.

Ericka said that we'll continue to leverage the model of the design collaboration forums to dive deeper into the details and then bring it back to the larger group during these monthly meetings. Look forward to more invites for those forums, in addition to more in-person engagement opportunities.

Ericka mentioned that today's agenda originally called for partners from the city to share more about themselves and their roles on the project. However, some were unable to attend, so to be respectful of HAAB members' time, those introductions will be happening over the coming months.

Discussion:

- » Leslie Goodlow requested that HAAB members receive notifications of in-person gatherings sooner so people can account for things like travel time.
- / Ericka responded by saying that we'll continue to provide a hybrid option in addition to updating members well in advance. We'll also be working with board members, the project team and city partners to identify other meeting venues.

Ericka returned to the discussion and reiterated that the project is moving toward a decision document from the FHWA.

Ericka discussed centering HAAB as primary community advisors but also verifying some of what was decided during the ICA process with the broader community. The team will dig deeper into the design in the coming months and advance EWP designs, which are about getting people to work and holding the project accountable to its workforce goals.

Ericka paused and asked for questions. There were none.

Ericka thanked everyone again for their patience and work on holding the project accountable.

Dr. Holt reminded everyone of two things - The process the HAAB has been involved in and the process we're moving toward. Dr. Holt said the process may feel clunky, but that change rarely looks great in the middle of change. It's messy, but as we move forward, it will start to look clearer. Dr. Holt appreciates everyone for being willing to lean in, question things and be uncomfortable. If we stay with it, we'll see something amazing that will bless future generations.

Ericka & Dr. Holt adjourned the meeting at 4:35 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).