



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

## Meeting #14 Summary

MEETING DATE: August 31, 2021

MEETING TIME: 4:00 - 5:00PM

LOCATION: Zoom online meeting

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

### Executive Steering Committee Members in Attendance

- Chair Alando Simpson – Oregon Transportation Commission, Vice Chair
- Lynn Peterson – Metro, President
- Brendan Finn – Oregon Department of Transportation, Urban Mobility Office Director
- Kristen Sheeran – Governor’s Office, Climate and Energy Policy Advisor
- Steve Witter – TriMet, Executive Director Capital Projects and Construction
- Nate McCoy – National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC)
- Dr. Ebony Amato – N/NE Community Development Initiative
- Julia Brim-Edwards – Portland Public Schools, PPS Board Member
- Marlon Holmes – N/NE Housing Strategy
- Bryson Davis – Williams and Russell Project

### Executive Steering Committee Members Not in Attendance

- Jana Jarvis – Oregon Trucking Association, President
- Robert Camarillo – Oregon Building Trades, Executive Secretary

### Historic Albina Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Pastor Richard Probasco
- Leslie Goodlow
- Estelle Love-Lavaspere
- Sprinavasa Brown
- John Washington
- Andrew Campbell
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Kevin Modica
- Dr. Carlos Richard
- Keith Edwards

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### Community Oversight Advisory Committee Members in Attendance

- Art Cortez
- Katrina Cloud
- Bob Carroll
- James Posey

### Staff Members

- Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee Facilitator
- Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director
- Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator
- Johnell Bell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Community Oversight Advisory Committee Facilitator
- Natalie Warner, technical support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- 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

### Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Values, Principles of Agreement
- HAAB Aug. 23 Meeting Recap
  - HAAB Draft Cover Recommendation
- ESC Support for HAAB Cover Recommendation
- Next steps
- Adjourn

## Welcome, Introductions, Values, Principles of Agreement

Dr. Steven Holt, Executive Steering Committee Facilitator, welcomed participants and started the meeting with an analogy to relay races and how important the handoffs/transitions are between racers. This meeting is like a relay race but for the different groups. Chair Alando Simpson thanked everyone for their time and energy on this project. Director Megan Channell echoed Chair Simpson's thanks and expressed excitement for today's meeting to discuss the HAAB Highway Cover Recommendation.

### HAAB August 23 Meeting Recap

Erika Warren, Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, gave a brief overview of the Board's August 23 Meeting. The Board is moving forward with the recommendation of bringing forth Cover Design Hybrid 3.

Johnell Bell, Community Oversight Advisory Committee Facilitator, indicated that the committee is in support of the Hybrid 3 Recommendation, unanimously.

Erika Warren gave a brief overview of the written Recommendation. The Board supports the Hybrid 3 Option Design for its ability to hold building structures, restore harms that have happened against the black community, reconnect the street grid, improve transportation access, and provide for economic opportunities. The Recommendation includes additional suggestions to the Oregon Transportation Commission.

### Comments and Feedback

- Julia Brim-Edwards asked for clarification on the relocation of the Harriot Tubman Middle School.

### Executive Steering Committee Support for the Board Cover Recommendation

Dr. Steven Holt requested that the ESC members use the Zoom reaction icons to indicate if they support the recommendation, understanding that there are elements that need to be solidified.

Megan Channell, Project Director, thanked the ESC and reported that Hybrid 3 will be carried forward as part of HAAB's Recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission on September 9. This marks the end of the work the ESC. Megan thanked the ESC for their work on the Recommendation, as well as establishing project values and outcomes. HAAB and COAC will continue to meet.

### Comments and Feedback

- Steve Witter (ESC) questioned whether "emojis" were actually the ESC's vote to move this forward and if the vote includes clarity on how this is moving forward.
  - Dr. Steven Holt responded that the emojis were affirmation of supporting the Board's Recommendation. It was the public demonstration.

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- Steve Witter (ESC) questioned if there will be continued discussion of concerns, such as transit, and a forum for his agency to be involved.
  - Megan Channell clarified that design sub-teams will continue to work with TriMet, as well as the technical leadership team.
- Lynn Peterson (ESC) recognized the letter that was sent to support Hybrid 3 with conditions. She also wanted to know how to continue participating and status of the Governor's Intergovernmental Agreement.
  - Kristen Sheeran responded that they are finalizing the Governor's Intergovernmental Agreement proposed language with an internal attorney, based on the letter received. She is hoping to have a letter to share with other jurisdictional governments by the end of the week.
- Dr. Steven Holt requested that Kristen Sheeran (ESC) speak to the work that the Board will continue to do as part of that agreement.
  - Kristen indicated that the Governor's Intergovernmental Agreement will reflect the commitment for the government to be inclusive.
  - Megan Channell stated that coordination with the Board will continue. She recognized that there will be a separate process and entity on the programming and future use of the highway cover developable space. The charge of the COAC remains the same - to focus on the disadvantaged business enterprise and workforce program.
- Leslie Goodlow (HAAB) asked if there was a request for Albina Vision Trust to lead the development process, and whether the Governor can require this.
  - Megan Channell responded that the Governor's direction elevated the future development conversation to an entity with land use authority that ODOT does not have.
  - Lynn Peterson (ESC) responded that there's a series of things that each jurisdiction must do to make this project work. All three groups have worked hard to create space on the lids. Now the City of Portland and its constituents need to work on creating place.
  - Kristen Sheeran (ESC) followed-up by saying that the community development in and around the caps is community-led and the City should invite Albina Vision Trust to that discussion.
  - Leslie Goodlow (HAAB) stated that ODOT needs to transfer the governance of development on the covers (in chat).
  - Dr. Steven Holt said that part of the comments in the HAAB's support of Hybrid 3 was the significant concern of what the governance structure would look like.
- John Washington (HAAB) stated that there needs to be a paper trail of this disagreement and other suggestions.
- James Posey (COAC) requested a concrete answer on who would be leading the restorative justice effort and noted that the City of Portland has been absent through this process.

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- Lynn Peterson (ESC) clarified that the letter was intended to make sure the Albina Vision Trust was a partner in that space and not the lead.
- Julia Brim-Edwards (ESC) requested a clarification of relocating the Harriet Tubman Middle School and whether the state will be a financial partner for the relocation.
  - Kristen Sheeran indicated that the Governor's Intergovernmental Agreement will capture the agreement that the state is committed to working with Portland Public Schools to find the funding to relocate the school. The conversation is continuing, but until a location is found, there won't be a final dollar value.
- Julia Brim-Edwards (ESC) indicated a discomfort that the timelines were not lining up. She hopes that there is more clarity before the September 9 meeting.
  - Brendan Finn responded that the process is going in the right direction and they have come a long way. He understands the frustration and indicated that the discussion is now at the state level.
  - Kristen agreed that everyone is committed to seeing a solution to this problem.
  - Julia Brim-Edwards requested that the renewed commitment that Brendan referenced is communicated to Oregon Transportation Commission.
- Nate McCoy (ESC) echoed the other comments. He requested that the ESC have their own letter that lays out the concerns mentioned before Oregon Transportation Commission casts their vote.
  - Dr. Steven Holt ensured that next steps will be discussed later.
- Dr. Carlos Richard (HAAB) questioned who the ultimate decisionmaker from the state is in terms of the funding the relocation of Harriet Tubman. He requested that the decisionmaker be at the table.
  - Kristen Sheeran (ESC) responded that Portland Public Schools makes the ultimate decision to move the school. The Governor has committed to find funding to pay for the relocation.
  - Dr. Richard (HAAB) expressed that he finds it ironic that the state would put the school in jeopardy with space and then say they will make a commitment to find funding. He asked when a decision be made and how to get the decisionmaker at the table.
  - Kristen (ESC) emphasized that the process is already well underway. Once the location is chosen, the actual amount of funding needed will be better understood.
- Lynn Peterson (ESC) thanked Kristen, the Governor, and the Governor's office. She is glad there is a path to decision making and she supports Portland Public Schools.
- Sharon Gary-Smith (HAAB) recalled the process of how the group got here today, talking about restorative justice. She claimed that there is something about

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this moment that is familiar to her. She emphasized that she still needs to see proof of ODOT finding money but is hopeful.

- Dr. Steven Holt thanked everyone for being able to have these difficult conversations and encourages people to highlight and call out these issues.
- Ericka Warren reiterated that continued involvement is encouraged. The Rose Quarter Improvement Project Team is hopeful that there is a path forward for collaboration with partners who are not currently at the table.
- Lynn Petersen (ESC) noted that the Independent Cover Assessment report has not been released yet and was wondering when that will be made public.
  - Megan Channell responded the ICA team posted the Final Report to their website – <http://www.albinahighwaycovers.com/>. She also indicated that there was a revised HAAB Recommendation letter that was sent to the ESC. This is the letter that will be carried forward to the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting.
- Brendan Finn (ESC) thanked everyone for the conversation and the journey over the past year.
- Leslie Goodlow (HAAB) asked if the final letter will be sent to the group as well.
  - Ericka Warren said that she will resend.

### Next Steps

Dr. Steven Holt thanked HAAB and COAC for their continued work and thanked the ESC for their energy and effort. He encouraged everyone to continue to press forward on this project.

Director Megan Channell thanked Dr. Steven Holt as his role as the facilitator of the ESC.

Dr. Steven Holt adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

### Adjourned

*Note: The meeting was hosted as a Zoom Webinar format that enabled Executive Steering Committee 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 could view the presentation slides).*