



I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board

Meeting #15 Summary

MEETING DATE: January 18, 2022

MEETING TIME: 4:00 – 6:30 PM

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

- Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon
- Keith Edwards
- Leslie Goodlow
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Andrew Campbell
- Dr. Carlos Richard
- John Washington
- Sprinavasa Brown

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Andrew Clarke
- Kevin Modica
- Bryson Davis
- Carl Talton
- Estelle Love Lavespere

Staff Members & Presenters

- Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator
- Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Advisor
- Maria Ellis, ODOT Economic Equity Manager (Guest Presenter)
- David Kim, ODOT Project Delivery Manager (Guest Presenter)
- Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director
- Monica Blanchard, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Deputy Director
- Rose Gerber, I-5 Rose Quarter Public Outreach and Media Manager
- Alex Cousins, Advisory Committee Support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Meera Bowman-Johnson, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Johnell Bell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team
- Mike Baker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

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- 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
 - Director's Update
 - 2022 Milestones
- ODOT's Action on Social Justice
- Youth Engagement Opportunities
- Performance Measures Continued
- 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 numbers for public comment and technical assistance. She also reminded committee members of the seven principles of agreement to guide their participation in today's meeting.

Public Comment

Natalie reminded attendees that the time limit for public comment is two minutes. Two written public comments were received before the meeting.

One verbal public comment was received from Richard Chavez. Richard introduced himself to the board. He works with WSP, is based in San Diego, and will be helping with performance measures.

Project Updates

Megan Channell, Project Director, provided a project update on the project webpage, the Governor's letter of agreement with regional and local agencies, the project finance plan process, and 2022 milestones.

ODOT's Action on Social Equity

Maria Ellis, Economic Equity Manager at ODOT, started off the presentation.

- ODOT is currently reviewing their policies from an equity standpoint.
- Making these kinds of social changes is difficult work and the team is currently making the business case for valuing diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Maria's team is using the social equity lens to select and evaluate projects - who benefits and who is harmed?

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- A goal of ODOT's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) in 2022 is "More dollars to BIPOC and women owned firms." Data collection will need to be improved to more clearly track this.

David Kim, Statewide Project Delivery Manager for ODOT, continued the presentation.

- The "racetrack" graphic provides a high-level overview of ODOT's project delivery status.
- ODOT is averaging \$600 million on projects per year, over \$2 billion in the 4-year STIP cycle.
- A major focus is figuring out how to apply social equity to project delivery. Statewide project delivery initiatives hold contractors to ODOT's goals and targets. Every project team has to answer a series of equity-related questions.
- The Oregon Social Equity Map is a tool to help Oregonians hold ODOT accountable. Also helps ODOT focus on seeking input and feedback from communities that have been ignored or harmed in the past.

Discussion

Dr. Richard commented that he got the "What" from the presentation but is missing the "How." He said that when you take a process of this magnitude, the "How" is important.

- David responded that there are many facets to this, but ODOT is starting with their people, and they are working on incorporating equity language into all position descriptions. They are also in the process of developing the next STIP, and every project that is scoped must answer 5 equity questions. These questions can impact funding. Projects that address equity can be funded at a higher level than projects that don't. This is gathering info that we've never collected before. ODOT is looking to community organizations and advisory committees to hold us accountable.
- Maria added that it's hard to come up with a satisfying answer because ODOT is in the early stages of a long and incremental process. A recent barriers analysis is a frank look at how ODOT is falling short.

Dr. Richard commented that it seems like ODOT is trying to build the plane as they are flying it. He asks how ODOT will measure progress and success?

- Maria responded that one way to measure success is by looking at economic opportunity, so measuring increased dollars to BIPOC and women-owned firms.

Dr. Richard asked if there is a committee comprised of both ODOT employees and community members to inform ODOT's work on social equity? It is important for the team to be surrounded by individuals who have been here a long time and understand the history of the area.

- Ericka reiterated that this committee includes individuals who have lived with and through the problems we've discussed and shifted to a discussion on youth engagement opportunities.

Youth Engagement Opportunities

Ericka acknowledged that, at past meetings, committee members have said that this work should be multigenerational. The May 14 workshop at Camp ELSO could be a good opportunity to engage with youth.

Ericka asks the board if there are other groups we should engage. The team is currently looking at iUrban Teen. BEAM, POIC and Rosemary Anderson High School were suggested in the chat.

Discussion

John Washington commented that this work tends to focus a lot on contracting and construction. If we are going to reach young people, we need to show them how other career paths can parallel with these projects.

Keith Edwards asked if ODOT was talking about internal and/or external policies. He also asked if ODOT is consulting with their BIPOC employees.

- Maria responded that these are the kind of things they are working on.
- David added that ODOT does have internal policies that all employees must be trained on. ODOT has a core value of safety and they need to get there with equity.
- Keith suggested Upstander Bystander as a resource. He thinks they are in the right direction but to make sure they connect with long-time community members.

Dr. Richard asked if ODOT has accountability measures in place.

- David responded that ODOT is internally accountable to performance measures and evaluation of these measures. He also said that groups like this provide public accountability.
- Dr. Richard asked how managers who refuse or struggle to engage with this topic are held accountable by ODOT.
- Maria responded that there are certain people who will never buy into this, but that they are still required to deliver on certain metrics, and are held accountable through the performance evaluation process.
- Keith Edwards indicated that discipline needs to be a part of accountability. An action can feel insignificant to the perpetrator but severe to the victim.
- David responded that ODOT has progressive discipline up to and including dismissal.
- Keith added that ODOT should treat equity infractions the same as safety issues.

Dr. Armato asked if it is possible for the HAAB to have input on setting expectations and consequences within the scope of the Rose Quarter project.

Sharon Gary-Smith commented that she appreciates how Dr. Richard kept pushing in this conversation and she appreciates the responses. In her work she has noticed discomfort and resistance from state agencies toward transformation and change. She would love for ODOT to be leading-edge for new rules of engagement.

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- Megan responded that the last part of this meeting is about performance measures, and this is how the team will be held accountable. She appreciates everyone's comments tonight.

Ericka said that these are the discussions that need to be had, and that this does not have to be the last time HAAB engages on this topic. She wants to make sure we don't shortchange our conversation around youth engagement, and that Sprinavasa wants to make sure she is moving in the right direction.

Sharon asked about the time frame for the youth engagement process.

- Sprinavasa responded that the workshop will be 4 hours long on May 14. She would like to start off with a discussion of history and context. Hopefully some HAAB members can participate in that. She said that there will also be time to educate participants on what engagement looks like in a government process. Participants will also have time for breakouts with the design team, after which the group will develop consensus around the top 3 things they would like the project team to move forward on. After the event, the project team will provide an update on what they moved forward with and why.

Ericka stated that there was a question in the chat around age group.

- Sprinavasa responded that this session will be focused on high-school students. College-age students may also participate. She would also like to discuss how to replicate this at the middle-school age. She recently talked with educators at Tubman, and feels it's really important to give these students an opportunity to engage.

Ericka said that this is a developing conversation, so there will be other opportunities to discuss this.

Performance Measures

Monica said that the focus for this discussion is the critical topic of restorative justice. She reiterated that these are truly draft measures. The design collaboration document was distributed via Google Docs so that HAAB members who couldn't attend tonight can provide comments that way.

Monica reviewed the Quantitative Measures slide first. She noted that during the Design Collaboration Forum, the project team was asked to consider including a time frame for these measures, and to include and track executive-level promotions. She said that the glossary has been revised and refined based on feedback from the Design Collaboration Forum. Some definitions were also changed.

Monica added that after this initial work on the performance measures, the project team will come back to the HAAB to discuss goal-setting.

Ericka asked the group if there is anything the HAAB is missing. She also stated that these measures are intended to have value in the community.

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Sharon asked if the HAAB can see why certain edits were made when responding to concerns, comments, or questions. She would also like to see the reasoning behind why some comments are incorporated and others aren't. Sharon also says that it is important to note the difference between restoration and creation of wealth. The Black community in Albina did have wealth and it was taken. These performance measures should look at both the creation of new wealth and restoration of wealth that was taken.

- Monica responded that the project team will be tracking feedback and edits and that HAAB members should keep an eye out for more information on this.

John Washington commented that the spiritual component is missing, as this is a historical system with deep roots. He says that we need to challenge people to take on internal growth and change.

Keith commented that trying to address impacts of racism with this project is challenging because there are so many outside forces that created this situation.

Andrew commented that these are quantitative measures, but he didn't see any numbers. He asked if ODOT is coming up with the numbers, or will the HAAB?

- Monica responded that the project team has developed ranges, but then the HAAB will use these ranges to set the goals. The HAAB will get into this during the goal-setting process.

Andrew indicated interest to see more on the numbers, and that it's important for the HAAB to have direct input, given the discussion around social equity earlier in the meeting.

Ericka reminded the group that all board members can make comments and suggestions using the Google Doc that was emailed out. She said that she wants everyone to take advantage of sitting with this information and then add comments. Ericka also thanked those who participated in the Design Collaboration Forum, and she said that the invitation is open to all HAAB members. She noted that HAAB members can attend as they have availability.

Adjourn

Ericka turned it over to Dr. Holt for closing thoughts.

Dr. Holt said it's interesting that this meeting is taking place on the heels of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He noted that Black home ownership is at the same level it was in 1965, which lets us know that there is so much work left for us to do. He said that we all need to have the willingness to own this both publicly and privately, with friends and family.

Ericka adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

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 slide.