

HISTORIC ALBINA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #23 SUMMARY

Date: December 13, 2022
Time: 4:00–5:25 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
- Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon
- Kevin Modica
- Estelle Lavespere
- Andrew Campbell
- Andrew Clarke
- Leslie Goodlow
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- John Washington
- Bryson Davis

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Dr. Carlos Richard
- Sprinavasa Brown
- Carl Talton

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
- Troy Doss, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Caitlin Reff, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation
- 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
- City of Portland Community Framework Agreement
- Next Steps, Adjourn

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka Warren, Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator, welcomed the 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

No verbal public comments were provided during the meeting.

Project Updates

Megan Channell, Project Director, provided updates on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA). Today marks the 29th day of the 50-day SEA public comment period. An online open house is live and will remain open until the public comment period closes on January 4. In addition, a virtual public hearing is scheduled for tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. After the comment period closes, the project team will work with federal partners to review comments and update the SEA documents. A federal decision document is anticipated in early 2023.

Megan added the project team has recently provided SEA briefings to several City committees and commissions, with an additional briefing scheduled for later this week.

Megan then touched on ongoing conversations with the City and Moda Center. These conversations are focused on addressing Moda's concerns with some of the project's design elements. One of ODOT's commitments is to center the voices of the Historic Albina community, and the project team will come back to the HAAB with more information as it becomes available. Megan thanked the HAAB members who have been involved in these conversations with Moda and the City of Portland.

Discussion:

- Andrew Clarke asked what time the project is on the Dec. 15 Design Commission agenda.
 - Bryson Davis said the meeting starts at 1:30.
 - Megan added that the Rose Quarter team's time slot is from 1:35–2:35.
- John Washington asked how much influence Moda should have over the design.
 - Megan responded these conversations have been centered on pedestrian safety and staying true to the intent of Hybrid 3, while enhancing the district character and maximizing developable land. Moda is just one of many stakeholders, and this is one conversation of many.
 - John asked if the HAAB will stay in the loop.
 - Megan responded the HAAB will stay in the loop and maintaining community engagement will be important in determining next steps.
- Bryson asked why the project team is only hearing about Moda's concerns now, especially since Hybrid 3 has been discussed publicly for so long.
 - Megan responded she is not sure why, but now that the project team knows their concerns, they are establishing a process that ensures the concerns are addressed.
- Keith Edwards noted he wants to ensure the HAAB is engaged before any design decisions are made.
 - Ericka responded that she and Bryson have participated in a couple of workshops with Moda. She added that she is committed to advocating for the community's interests and continued involvement. She noted the City of Portland is also invested in this.
 - Bryson said he won't make any decisions on behalf of the HAAB, and he will call out if he sees attempts to make decisions before consulting the HAAB.
 - Megan added she is committing to carrying forward this request for continued HAAB engagement.
- Sharon Gary-Smith voiced her concern that when decisions are made, the outcomes may not take the HAAB into account. She is also concerned with Moda inserting themselves into the design process and potentially having the ability to circumvent the established process that includes the HAAB.
- Andrew Campbell asked if the SEA public comment period will be extended past January 4.
 - Megan responded that there is not a plan to extend the comment period. The federal process only calls for a 30-day comment period, and this comment period was extended up-front to 50 days, in part to account for the holidays.
- Andrew Campbell then asked to see data on SEA engagement at future meetings.
 - Megan responded the project team will publish all SEA comments on the project website. These comments will be categorized, summarized and responded to. The project team will be sure to share the results directly with the HAAB.

Ericka thanked HAAB members for the discussion and asked Troy Doss to present on the City of Portland's Community Framework Agreement.

City of Portland Community Framework Agreement

Troy Doss, Senior Planner at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS), presented on the City of Portland's Community Framework Agreement for the development of the highway cover. Currently, the City is in the scoping phase for this agreement. This agreement has the 2021 Independent Cover Assessment process as its north star. The City wants to ensure the highway cover is designed to support multiple outcomes, as well as high-quality interim land uses. The agreement also aims to parse out the roles of ODOT, the City and the larger community.

Discussion following the presentation:

- Leslie Goodlow asked who will be making the decisions referenced in Troy's presentation. Is it BPS, City Council, the HAAB, or someone else? She also asked who else should be included in this process.
 - Troy responded that decisions will not be made solely by BPS or City Council. ODOT will also be involved, as well as the broader community, including the Eliot and Lloyd neighborhood associations. Many voices will be consulted in this process, which is still in its very early stages.
- Leslie Goodlow asked if any Black staff at BPS are involved with this effort. She also asked how the City is interacting with Albina Vision Trust (AVT).
 - Troy said BPS does not have Black staff working on this project right now. He noted the City is actively engaged with AVT, as the City and AVT recently co-applied for a planning grant for this project. If the grant is not awarded, the City will find another way to fund this expanded engagement process.
- Leslie Goodlow then noted the Eliot and Lloyd neighborhoods are very gentrified and no longer have large Black populations. She stated that she doesn't want their voices to outshine those of HAAB members.
 - Troy responded he hears her concerns.
- John Washington said the HAAB has talked about directly involving Black youth on this project, whether it's through internships or part-time work. He emphasized he wants to see Black youth working for the City on this project.
 - Troy noted the BPS project team is currently only comprised of two people, but the City is making a big effort to expand the diversity of its staff.
 - Keith Edwards noted he is concerned with broader workforce diversity at the City, and he'd like to see more advocacy on behalf of Black youth.
- John Washington then expressed his concern that, after stepping away from the project for years, the City and AVT are now trying to steer their own process. He emphasized his desire for the Black community to be centered in engagement efforts.

- Troy responded the City does not want to derail or change the project. He noted this is a very complex project, both from a political and engineering perspective, and the City wants to see it to fruition.
- Estelle noted there may be confusion around the differing roles of the HAAB and AVT. She suggested that City staff dive deeper into the separate roles the HAAB and AVT play on this project.
 - Troy noted this needs to be owned by the broader community, which contains many diverse voices. The City wants to ensure its engagement on this project includes all of the groups who have an interest in this project.
 - Ericka added the project team is staying focused on pushing forward the values of the Black community.
- Kevin Modica asked everyone to consider the I-90 bridge project in Washington State. Similar to the I-90 bridge, this project will take many years to complete. Many of the folks working on this project today will not see the full benefits of its completion. Kevin also asked who the BPS commissioner is.
 - Troy responded the BPS commissioner is currently Carmen Rubio, but the City Council assignments may shift in the new year.
 - Kevin asked if the Commissioner could come to a future HAAB meeting. He added that workforce development is high on the list of priorities for elected officials in Portland. He noted the HAAB has a job to do, and members are advocating for that tonight. He also asked how the current tort claim might affect the project.
 - Megan said she doesn't know how the tort claim will affect the project. As the project team learns more, that information will be shared with the HAAB.
 - John Washington added the Black community is not monolithic, but everyone does want to protect and advance their community.
- In the meeting chat, Andrew Campbell said he hopes BPS can be more intentional in getting the Black community involved. He added there are many folks who want to get involved, but they are not sure how to do so. He said that he hopes ODOT can break the traditional cycles of urban development and hold the City accountable to do the same. He stated his willingness to work with the City toward a solution.
 - Estelle added she would like to see the City be more transparent.

Ericka reiterated the HAAB's principles of agreement that state we may experience discomfort, and tonight's discussion is an example of this and also an opportunity to grow. She stated her belief there is a path forward and we need to do this right. Prior to closing the meeting, she gave the floor to Sharon Gary-Smith.

- Sharon thanked everyone who engaged this evening. She announced she will be stepping away from her role as president of the Oregon NAACP and also resigning from the HAAB. She noted she does not take this decision lightly. She added the ODOT EECF compensation structure was not equitable and has presented problems. Nor was it

reflective of the investment or expertise represented. She suggested the policy be re-examined to be more in line with other governmental agencies. Sharon closed by saying she will miss Ericka and the rest of the Board members.

- Ericka, Megan and multiple HAAB members thanked Sharon for her leadership and service to the community. Megan also stated ODOT will course-correct on its compensation structure, and the agency wants to reduce barriers going forward.

Next Steps / Adjourn

Ericka reviewed next steps for the project. She noted the SEA virtual public hearing takes place tomorrow and the SEA public comment period closes on January 4.

Caitlin Reff, City of Portland, added she is with the Bureau of Transportation and appreciates the opportunity to be here tonight.

Ericka expressed her appreciation for the HAAB members' time and investment in the project. She then asked Dr. Holt to close out the meeting.

Dr. Holt thanked everyone for the robust conversation. He noted that folks are passionate, and it's important to lean into these difficult conversations. This is our work, our life and our investment. He thanked Sharon Gary-Smith for her leadership and investment in the community and wished her well in her retirement.

Ericka adjourned the meeting at 5:25 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).