



Joint Historic Albina Advisory Group/ Community Oversight Advisory Committee

SUMMARY MATERIAL
February 11, 2026

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JOINT HAAB/COAC MEETING OVERVIEW

Date: February 11, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Hybrid Meeting: In-person meeting at Albina Library and virtual

This document is a summary of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project's Joint Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB)/Community Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) meeting. The [virtual recording](#) is available online.

ATTENDANCE

HAAB Members In Attendance

- Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon (Virtual)
- Sprinavasa Brown (Virtual)
- Andrew Campbell
- Bryson Davis
- Joy Alise Davis (Virtual)
- Kieth Edwards
- JT Flowers
- Leslie Goodlow (Virtual)
- Kimberly Moreland (Virtual)
- Dr. Carlos Richard (Virtual)
- John Washington III

COAC Members In Attendance

- Felicia Tripp Folsom
- Joe McFerrin II
- James Posey
- Cinna'Mon Williams (Virtual)
- Katrina Cloud (Virtual)

Committee Members Not In Attendance

- Art Cortez, COAC
- Michael Burch, COAC
- Kevin Modica, HAAB

I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Staff Members & Partners

- Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, HAAB Facilitator
- Johnell Bell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, COAC Facilitator
- Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project
- Monica Blanchard, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, Interim Project Director
- David Kim, I-5 Rose Quarter Project Team, Director of Project Delivery
- Ted Leybold, Metro
- Jean Senechal-Biggs, Metro
- Brian Price, City of Portland, PBOT
- Caitlin Reff, City of Portland, PBOT
- Rachael Hoy, City of Portland, BPS
- Sharon Daleo, City of Portland, PBOT
- Monika Johnson, I-5 Rose Quarter Project Team, HSJV
- Angela Murphy, I-5 Rose Quarter Project Team, HSJV

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- Briana De Kalb, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, Construction Team
 - Kerry Werner, I-5 Rose Quarter Design Project, Team Lead
 - Carolyn Heniges, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project
 - Bill Hart, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project
 - Isabelle Kennedy, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, Communications Team, Technical Support
 - Natalie Hall, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, Technical Support
 - DeAngelo Moaning, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, Technical Support
 - Benjamin Fleming, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, Notetaker

MEETING NOTES

Welcome / Introductions / Agenda Review

Ericka Warren, HAAB facilitator, welcomed the HAAB and COAC members, the project team and the audience. Ericka informed attendees that some committee members will be participating remotely, shared the meeting agenda and opened public comment before moving forward with the agenda.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Project Updates

Monica Blanchard, Interim Project Director, provided updates specifically around the work occurring with project partners to advance the project.

- At the December 2025 Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) meeting, the project received conditional approval to move forward with available Phase 1B funding while increasing partner engagement across Phase 1B and Phase 1C. The project will share an update with OTC at the March 12 meeting.
- In response to the OTC's direction, a Project Management Group (PMG) was established with representation from the HAAB and COAC. PMG held two collaborative meetings in January and aligned on Phase 1B scope that can be delivered starting in 2027 within existing funding.
- Phase 1B scope includes widening the bridge structure over the Rose Quarter Transit Center, seismic upgrades, resurfacing, improved shoulder width on I-5, new signage, variable message signs, and reconstruction of impacted transit center infrastructure including sidewalks, lighting, curb ramps, and architectural features.

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- Based on PMG recommendations, the project is adding explore early right-of-way acquisition using \$30 million in Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant funding.
 - Next, PMG will focus on defining a fundable Phase 1C scope while staying on schedule for design delivery and future funding opportunities.
 - ODOT is currently prioritizing legislative support to close ODOT's maintenance and operations funding gap. The governor has asked the legislature to consider all funding sources to close the gap, including House Bill 2017 (which includes Rose Quarter funding). Despite uncertainty, the PMG team is focused on progressing collectively, exploring all possible funding options, with an eye on the 2027 legislative session and federal opportunities.

Monica invited PMG participants to share reflections from PMG meetings:

- **AVT:** JT Flowers expressed his excitement about where the project is now after the initiation of the PMG and focus on scope alignment and achieving strategic parity:
 - » This allowed the project to successfully obligate the \$30 million in RCN funding toward early right-of-way acquisitions that are coming in future phases, signaling that we are committed to delivering the full project.
 - » The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 was signed into law. This created a new bucket of money, about \$30 million in RCN grant funding, allowing us to participate in another competitive federal process to try to bring additional resources.
 - » Project alignment and bonded project funds make it more unlikely that legislature would reallocate funding from Rose Quarter toward ODOT's operations and maintenance gap.
- **PBOT:** Caitlin Reff emphasized the significance of having a clear pathway for the project and governance structure that supports collaboration and transparency in how we make decisions. Ongoing partnership and work are needed to make decisions on scope and funding opportunities.
- **Metro:** Ted Leybold provided background on Metro's work to properly program RCN federal funds in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and ensure that any significant funding reductions require elected officials to revisit and reapprove the project in a way that honors the original intent of the FHWA approved project design. He emphasized Metro's eagerness to continue collaborating as the project progresses.

Monica also highlighted that the Rose Quarter Project was selected as one of three projects nationally for the AmericaFWD Technical Assistance Program which will help to strengthen project delivery and competitiveness for future funding opportunities.

Q&A

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- Committee member asked what changed that is creating this optimism around the project?
 - » JT Flowers emphasized the alignment among stakeholder groups on the project.
 - Committee member asked how the RCN grant went from \$800K to \$30M.
 - » JT Flowers described how the first iteration (\$800k) of grant funding was for the Reconnecting Albina Planning Project (RAPP) in 2023. In 2024, the US Department of Transportation expanded the grant to be the \$488.5M which was secured by the Rose Quarter project. In 2025, the federal government rescinded all unobligated funds. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 is significant because it allows RCN grant recipients to re-compete for some of the money that was lost, signaling there could be more opportunities from the federal government like this in the future.
 - Committee member expressed his remaining concerns despite the optimism for the project. They believe there is not enough support for the project, and they want the Interim ODOT Director and Governor to attend these meetings.
 - » The ODOT director could not attend the meeting because they were obligated to a short legislative session.
 - Committee member expressed concern for the potential of minority programs being sacrificed to make up ODOT maintenance and operations gap.
 - » JT Flowers expressed cautious optimism that project funds will not be reallocated to the maintenance and operations gap given alignment among the PMG and project partners advocating for the project at the legislative level.
 - » Project Delivery Director David Kim encouraged project partners and committee members to advocate for the project and mentioned that ODOT can provide information but cannot lobby for the project as a state agency.
 - » Committee member mentioned ODOT's history lobbying against the Black community.
 - Committee member acknowledged the challenging legislative budget year and urged folks to advocate for the project as independent community members and be understanding for people making tough budgetary decisions.

Construction Updates

Briana De Kalb provided an update on construction activities.

- Current construction activities include:
 - » Progress on the stormwater bioretention pond.
 - » Ongoing seismic retrofit work including core drilling crossbeams.

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- » Night shifts beginning for work on I-5 including temporary striping and barrier work to move into the next construction phase.
 - Upcoming construction activities include:
 - » Installation of a sign bridge structure over I-5. Expect intermittent road closures along I-5 and road closures of the Holladay exit ramp off I-84.
 - » Additional I-5 southbound bridge work, including barrier replacement, deck strengthening, gore extension, and concrete overlay replacement.

Isabelle Kennedy provided an overview of the communications approach for current and upcoming construction closures:

- Conducting outreach to interested parties, including businesses, facilities and industries that are impacted by the work.
- Conducting briefings with elected officials and agency staff.
- Activating ODOT's distribution channels, including social media accounts, email, text messages, websites, e-newsletters and media releases.

Committee members were encouraged to sign up for text messages and email alerts about construction and were provided an overview of partners and agencies the project has coordinated with to-date.

Q&A

- Committee member requested that the Soul District be added to the list of partner agencies the project team is coordinating with.
- Committee members requested that the project communications make communications less technical and include the values of the project and benefit to the Black community.

Workforce Development

Monika Johnson and Angela Murphy provided an overview and updates on workforce development beginning with current workforce and apprenticeship goals and trades working on Phase 1A. Current workforce goals include:

- **Workforce (Minority, Female, and Veteran) Goal:** 15 percent
- **Apprenticeship Goal:** 12 percent

Angela shared workforce statistics since the project began construction on early work package with limited scope. These numbers do not reflect full construction:

- Minority and women participation is at 52 percent of the workforce.
- Apprentice participation is over 13 percent, reflecting work for larger subcontracts on the project over \$750,000.

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- » 43 subcontractors are under contract, eight of those were triggered by that \$750,000 value.
 - Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) is just under the 4 percent goal with workforce participation at 3.23 percent.

Angela shared that they are focused on hiring from within the community and worker retention, mentorship and capacity building, for subcontractors. They concluded their update by showing videos featuring minority subcontractors working on Phase 1A.

Discussion

- Committee members expressed their support for the videos and desire to see them in circulation to the community.
- Committee member spoke to the uphill battle that minority contractors are facing and pointed to the history of challenges facing the Black community in the construction industry.
- Committee member described how the feel of the project has changed since the last meeting and how they would like committees to be better informed about project changes with regular updates.
- Committee members asked the project team if there is somewhere they can observe progress on workforce participation.
 - » Carolyn Heniges responded that updates will be sent to committee members monthly.
- Committee member described how workforce participation numbers need to be disaggregated to better reflect Black and minority participation.

Reconnecting Albina Planning Project

Brian Price provided an overview of the Reconnecting Albina Planning Project (RAAP), including how it relates to the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project and other development efforts in Albina.

He provided a summary of recent community engagement workshops and feedback including desire for making the highway cover a people-first civic space; and providing access to public gathering spaces, culture, and nature.

Brian shared that the next engagement workshop will be in April 2026. The final report for the RAPP will be completed in Q3 2026.

Q&A

- Committee member asked who has been helping with planning engagement for the RAAP.

- » Albina Vision Trust coordinates engagement for the RAAP and encourages committee members to attend.

Next Steps

Monica Blanchard provided an overview of next steps.

- There will be quarterly joint committee meetings through the year with additional meetings as needed.
- Committees will meet on March 18, 2026 to discuss outcomes of the upcoming OTC meeting.
- Committee members reminded the project team about the importance of transparent communication and appointing members to leadership positions within the committees to serve as a voice for the committee.

Adjourn

Ericka Warren adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

| MAIN MEETING | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| Time | From | Message |
| 17:33:56 | Ted Leybold (he/him), Metro to Everyone | Thank you JT! |
| 18:32:17 | Sprinavasa B. Turner to Everyone | Id like to see reports monthly to include: updates on what has happened since the last mtg, any key decision points that will be coming to this group in the upcoming month, as well as action and next steps I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project: ❤️ |
| 18:41:24 | Leslie Goodlow to Everyone: | I have not received any invites, so I'm not sure what email is being used for me. |
| 18:42:18 | Joy Alise Davis, they,she, Imagine Black to Everyone | I haven't either |
| 18:43:21 | I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project to Everyone | Thanks Leslie and Joy Alise. We'll make sure AVT is aware. |