

I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board

Meeting #1 Summary

MEETING DATE: January 12, 2021

MEETING TIME: 4:00 – 6:15PM

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

Srinavasa Brown

Kevin Modica

Andrew Campbell

Pastor Richard Probasco

Andrew Clarke

Dr. Carlos Richard

Keith Edwards

Serena Stoudamire-Wesley

Sharon Gary-Smith

Carl Talton

Leslie Goodlow

John Washington

Staff Members

Ericka Warren, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board Facilitator

Dr. Steven Holt, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Executive Steering Committee Facilitator

Brendan Finn, ODOT Urban Mobility Office Director

Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director

April deLeon-Galloway, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Public Involvement and Communications Lead

Johnell Bell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Community Oversight Advisory Committee Facilitator

Steve Drahota, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Natalie Warren, technical support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Alex Cousins, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

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Grace Kerschensteiner, technical support, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Emily Wolff, notetaker, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Owner's Representative Team

Guest Presenters

Jeana Wooley, Independent Highway Cover Assessment Facilitator

Nolan Lienhart, ZGF, Independent Highway Cover Assessment Team

Agenda

- Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review
- Public Comment
- Background Information
- Purpose of the HAAB and Governance
- Project Values
- Q&A, General Discussion
- Next Steps, Adjourn

Welcome, Introduction, Agenda Review

Ericka, Facilitator, provided a brief introduction of herself, the history of the Albina area, and the importance of this group in guiding project decisions.

- Introduced members and their affiliation with the Albina community.
- The principles of agreement guiding Board meetings.

Background Information

Brendan Finn, ODOT Urban Mobility Office Director, acknowledged the past harms done by the construction of I-5 to Albina. He described the role of ODOT's Urban Mobility Office and explained the project's values with emphasis on restorative justice to fuel redevelopment and the reconnection of the Albina neighborhood.

Megan Channell, Project Director, explained the project history, the process behind the current design concept and an overview of project improvements. She acknowledged prior concerns about the voice of project committees and defined the input that ODOT seeks from the Board. She concluded her remarks by reviewing the project timeline, milestones and 2021 schedule.

Design 101

Steve Drahota provided a brief explanation of the area street grid and how the highway covers and nearby land opportunities can truly reconnect the community. Steve provided an overview of project improvements and what the Board will be advising on, particularly related to how the project can best knit the community back together. He closed with an explanation of the land impacts from development, showing what businesses or areas will be impacted temporarily or permanently and what opportunities may be available for redevelopment on this land consistent with highway cover designs.

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- Sprinavasa Brown asked whether post construction remnant lands are publicly- or privately-owned and why these lands will be available for redevelopment.
 - Steve responded that construction requires space on properties along project boundary that ODOT must acquire. Once project construction is over, that property is available for resale and repurposing, presenting a redevelopment opportunity. Megan added that how to best repurpose this land will be a question brought back to the Board for input.

Megan described the direct and indirect project benefits and introduced project team leadership and organization. April deLeon-Galloway, Public Involvement and Communications Lead, described her role and efforts to engage historically displaced communities in a meaningful way.

- Leslie Goodlow asked about the type of community work and engagement that the project has done with the Black community or in NE Portland.
 - April described the project team's work conducting stakeholder interviews and discussion groups with African American Community members, as well as other intentional [engagement](#) efforts by the project. The formation of the Historic Albina Advisory Board is just one way in which the team has responded to feedback received through that work.
 - Brendan highlighted some of the team members' work with the community in prior capacities (e.g., Rosa Parks Way renaming, Portland Preference Policy). He stated that while not everyone on the project team has deep ties to this community, the team wants to empower the Board in this work. Megan added that the project team is committed to do better and hopes that future actions by the team and work with the Board will build that level of trust.
- Leslie and Serena Stoudamire-Wesley both expressed concern about having time to review documents prior to future meetings.
 - Megan committed to providing meeting materials to the Board sooner in order to provide more time for review.
- Dr. Richard asked whether a restorative process was done as part of the project with current or former members of this community to have a conversation about what going forward looks like in spite of past harms? And if not, why?
 - Brendan acknowledged that I-5 and projects like it have destroyed neighborhoods across the nation and ODOT continues to acknowledge the agency's role in that harm. With this project, ODOT is purposefully acting with intentionality to pursue a decision-making process that works with community towards achieving restorative outcomes.

Purpose of the HAAB and Governance

Megan explained that the purpose of the Board is to elevate the voices of the black community and their interests. The Board will work together with the other project advisory committees and project team to exchange information, advice and recommendations. The project team will look to the Board for advice and innovation in formulating solutions around many topics, including subcommittees related to project rebranding and the highway covers. To provide more time for review, Ericka noted that the Board will discuss the charter at its next meeting.

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Feedback

- Andrew Campbell asked that the project team continue to provide visuals in future discussions related to the covers and land impacts and opportunities, as well as more information for reference prior to discussing other design elements such as the crossings.
 - Ericka confirmed that this information will be provided for future meetings.
- Keith Edwards commented that he hopes there will be efforts to include young people (18 and under) at the table as part of this process. He also expressed that art reflecting the history and heritage of Albina, an interactive history museum, and job training or education center are included as part of the project.
- Sharon shared that she appreciates seeing the Black community represented in this space and hopes the Board's work on this project can influence ODOT's work in a larger sense. She also asked for more information on the project's definition of restorative justice.
 - Dr. Holt provided an overview of the restorative justice project value.
- Dr. Richard asked what community will be reconnected and how, when many no longer live in an area that was taken from them due to past laws, actions, and gentrification.
 - Brendan explained that the Board's guidance on this question will be needed because the community isn't for ODOT or the project team to define, it is for the community to determine. The project team is working to understand the history of the past and catalyze opportunities for creating future connections for the Albina community.

Project Values

Dr. Steven Holt explained how the project is being intentional in anchoring commitment to positively influencing those who have been negatively influenced in the past. He provided an overview of the project's values and outcomes and work to evaluate these values in order to repair harm to those people who have been impacted and make long-lasting positive change.

Committees

Dr. Holt explained how the Executive Steering Committee operates and informs other committees and the project. Johnell Bell introduced the Community Oversight Advisory Committee, its members, and how they will inform the project. He described the committee's work with the construction manager general contractor on contracting plans to identify disadvantaged business and workforce opportunities to boost the local economy and community. Amber Ontiveros provided an overview of the construction contractor procurement method and the contracting diversity program goals to engage people of color, minority contractors, women, and other groups.

Independent highway cover assessment

Nolan Lienhart, representing the Independent Highway Cover Assessment team, explained the independent team's work to develop and evaluate highway cover design concepts for the project and how the Board will shape that work. Jeana Wooley, facilitator of the Independent Highway Cover Assessment, added that the team intends to heavily engage with the Board over the coming months, including current opportunities for shaping the team's outreach efforts. Jeana also explained the relationship between the independent cover team, the Board, and the Executive Steering Committee, who will ultimately make the recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission regarding highway cover design.

Q&A, General Discussion

- Kevin Modica asked how the project team vetted membership for each committee, if the EIS analysis was performed all the way to the interstate bridge, what ODOT's intention is related to the highway covers, and what happens if there is no agreement from communities on how the work should be done?
 - Megan responded that the work that the Independent Highway Cover Team is doing is to identify the community vision and what it takes to get there and that the conversation around highway cover designs, potential uses and desired outcomes is something that the Board and the historic Albina community will influence.
- Andrew Clarke asked for an update on where the project is in terms of design decisions and contracting and asked for a project schedule.
 - Megan confirmed that the project is still in the design phase, reiterated upcoming milestones, and provided information on what the construction contractor's work will include in the coming months (now that the contract has been executed).

Next Steps

Ericka thanked the HAAB members for their engagement and provided an overview of the six-month work plan for the group. Ericka expressed excitement for the potential youth mentorship and collaboration that is to come and adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Adjourn

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 were able to view the presentation slides).

Historic Albina Advisory Board Response Matrix

ODOT is committed to being held accountable to the community, in particular the historic Albina community, for actions we take in response to the feedback we've heard. This matrix is a living document that will be updated following every meeting of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Historic Albina Advisory Board. The matrix lists specific information requests, action items, and project recommendations and ideas ODOT has received, and did not address directly as part of the meeting, from the Board and documents how ODOT is responding. For a complete record of the discussions from each meeting, see the summary for each past meeting posted on the [events page](#).

TIMING KEY:

Near Term: Zero to six months

Long Term: Six months to one year

During Construction: Activities to take place during or specific to construction

Out of Scope: Beyond ODOT purview, or requires times or resources from other community or agency partners

Source	Comment	Response	Timing	Responsible Party	Status
Andrew Clarke	Can you provide more information on the project schedule and upcoming milestones?	Yes, the project team will continue to provide schedule updates. The Board received an overview of project milestones as part of the first meeting presentation . More information on upcoming project milestones and the schedule for the independent cover assessment work can also be found on the project website. Updates on the project status, schedule, upcoming milestones, and decision points, including where the Board will have influence, will be provided in future meetings on an ongoing basis.	Near Term	ODOT	Ongoing
Kevin Modica	Did the project's environmental assessment include the area all the way up to the interstate bridge crossing over the Columbia River?	The Environmental Assessment analyzed potential impacts for the project area, generally the area along I-5 between I-405 and I-84. The Interstate Bridge Replacement Project (formerly the Columbia River Crossing) project was included in the transportation model used to analyze transportation and traffic conditions as part of the environmental assessment to be consistent with Metro's adopted Regional Transportation Plan. More information is available in the Finding of No Significant Impact/Revised Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Assessment .	Near Term	ODOT	Complete
Sharon Gary-Smith	How does the project define restorative justice?	Restorative justice is one of the four project values adopted by the Executive Steering Committee with the aim to advance social and racial equity resulting in positive change. The values document describes what is meant by the term and the desired outcomes in more detail.	Near Term	ODOT	Complete
Keith Edwards	How are young people included in this process?	The project team will look into opportunities for engaging an advisory committee student representative and will explore other strategies for increasing youth outreach and engagement as part of community involvement efforts in 2021.	Near Term	ODOT, Facilitator	In Progress

<p>Kevin Modica</p>	<p>How did you decide the membership for each project advisory committee?</p>	<p>Each project advisory committee was defined through a different process based on the committee purpose.</p> <p>The Executive Steering Committee is composed of local government officials and community-based organizations in our region who advise the Oregon Transportation Commission and ODOT on major decisions related to the project’s design and construction. Members from agency partners and key stakeholder organizations were invited by the Oregon Transportation Commission, with input from the project team and regional partner agencies.</p> <p>The Historic Albina Advisory Board represents a wide array of civic and community interests to bring Black community perspectives into the project’s decision-making process and provide advice and recommendations directly to the Executive Steering Committee. Members were appointed or chosen for their deep personal ties to Albina by the project team, led by the committee facilitator, Ericka Warren, and through a collaborative process with the ODOT Urban Mobility Office and Metro.</p> <p>The Community Oversight Advisory Committee keeps the project focused on its workforce participation goals by advising decisions about minority-owned disadvantaged business contracting requirements and on-the-job training opportunities. Members come from minority-owned firms, advocacy groups, workforce development organizations, industry associations and community-based organizations with a strong record of serving racial and ethnic minorities, women and other disadvantaged groups. Members were identified and appointed by the project team, including committee facilitators.</p>	<p>Near Term</p>	<p>ODOT</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Leslie Goodlow Dr. Carlos Richard Serena Stoudamire-Wesley</p>	<p>The project team staff members do not reflect the community impacted by this project. How much engagement and work in the African American community and/or NE Portland neighborhood has the project team done?</p> <p>Which community will be reconnected?</p> <p>How can you reconnect a community that no longer lives in the area that was taken from them due to historic laws and gentrification?</p>	<p>ODOT acknowledges that agency-level staff does not reflect the historic Albina community. Recognizing this gap, ODOT has empowered this Board, as guided by the Board facilitator, to elevate historic Albina perspectives in project decision-making, particularly related to the needs and vision of the community for design and development. The project team will look to the Board for advice and recommendations about who the community is that we are connecting and how we can best approach reconnecting the community through the project. The independent highway cover assessment, which the Board will be an active participant in, is currently considering strategies for both engaging and reconnecting displaced communities as part of highway cover design.</p> <p>The project team has been working to do business differently and tailor the project's approach to engagement to better involve the historic Albina community. ODOT has engaged in meaningful dialogue with the African American community and NE Portland neighborhood through a variety of different avenues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder interviews (17 in 2017); • Outreach to religious institutions (through two pastors breakfasts) and one-on-one conversations (2017-2020); • Surveys, tabling at neighborhood events, and notifications in media outlets that publish content for African American audiences (2017-2020); • An open house for the Black community (2018) and a community and neighborhood forum (2017); • Discussion groups (four in 2019); • Door to door canvassing of business owners and affordable housing residents (2018-2019, 400+ in 2020); and • ongoing briefings to community-based organizations. 	<p>Near Term</p>	<p>ODOT</p>	<p>Complete/ Ongoing</p>

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<p>Keith Edwards</p>	<p>The decisions makers should be the community not the people that work for the community.</p> <p>Art reflecting the history and heritage of Albina, an interactive Albina history museum, and job training/career center should be included.</p>	<p>Since the project is still early in design process, there are still significant opportunities to influence specific community features such as highway cover design and potential future land uses. Input from the Historic Albina Advisory Board and communities of color will be paramount to guiding the design decisions for the project and the Board's recommendations will significantly inform the recommendations made by the Executive Steering Committee, which in turn will inform the committee's recommendations to the Oregon Transportation Commission related to major project decisions. The Board will be the first to provide feedback related to design considerations so that the Board's recommendations are addressed with the Executive Steering Committee.</p> <p>Through a community-led process, the independent highway cover assessment team will explore options such as buildings, public space or other uses that provide opportunities for economic development and wealth creation consistent with the vision of the Albina community. In fact, the next meeting of the Board (February 2, 2020) will provide a preview of what the first community workshop for the assessment process will entail. All of these suggested concepts (e.g., job training center, museum, art reflecting the historic Albina community) and more will be considered as part of the assessment and design process. Additionally, the project team recently asked about community support for many of these options through our public survey.</p>	<p>Near/Long Term</p>	<p>ODOT, Partners</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Kevin Modica</p>	<p>What happens if there is not agreement from communities about how to move forward with the project?</p>	<p>The I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement project was included and funded for design and construction by House Bill 2017 legislation to address long-standing safety needs and congestion on I-5 and has since been included in adopted local and regional comprehensive plans. Since funding was allotted by the state legislature, only the state legislature could decide to reallocate it.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with community members, organizations, and leaders in order to work together to develop a design that aligns the needs of the community with the intention of the project, while centering and honoring the African American community. By meaningfully including community representatives, such as those on this board, in decision-making, we intend that this work will be done and vetted in partnership.</p>	<p>Near/Long Term</p>	<p>ODOT</p>	<p>Complete/ Ongoing</p>