

HISTORIC ALBINA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #18 SUMMARY

Date: April 19, 2022
Time: 4:00–6:00 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 of this meeting.

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Dr. Ebony Amato–Blackmon
- Sharon Gary–Smith
- Andrew Campbell
- Estelle Love Lavespere
- Kevin Modica
- Dr. Carlos Richard
- Sprinavasa Brown
- Bryson Davis

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Carl Talton
- Leslie Goodlow
- John Washington
- Keith Edwards
- Andrew Clarke

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 Advisor
- Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director
- Rose Gerber, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Public Outreach and Media Manager
- James McGrath, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Design Team
- Tiffany Swift, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Design Team
- Bill Hart, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Design Team
- Marianne Zarkin, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Design Team
- 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
- Website Update
- Design Update
- 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 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 public comments were received during the meeting. One written public comment was shared with HAAB members prior to the meeting.

Project Updates

Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Director, shared project updates.

Megan first provided an update on the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Portland, which will re-engage the City on the project. The agreement is currently in review and will tentatively go in front of City Council in May.

Megan then provided an update on opportunities for Early Work Packages. Hamilton Sundt has started a series of solicitations for the mini-CM/GCs for Early Work Packages A and B. These are the first actions being taken to implement the project's diversity and subcontracting plan.

She then let the HAAB know that there has been a change in the project's environmental review timeline. The need for additional traffic analysis pushes the project to an early 2023 completion date. The prior estimate was for late 2022. The partner agency and public review period for the updated environmental assessment is targeted for this summer.

Finally, Megan provided a COAC update. The next COAC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21. The committee will discuss the upcoming mini-CM/GC solicitations as well as implementing and updating the diversity and subcontracting plan.

Website Update

Rose Gerber, Public Outreach and Media Manager, shared an update on the re-branded website, which was launched on March 31. A design survey is now live until May 15, and the link to this survey is on the website's homepage. Rose then shared the Voices of Albina video.

Ericka asked if any HAAB members had any comments or feedback.

Sprinavasa said that the project library on the website has been helpful. She thanked Ericka for her inspiring words and said that the Voices of Albina video invigorates her about the potential of this project. She also thanked PDX Black Excellence for their work.

Estelle said that she really likes the video, and she thinks it was put together well. She added that she likes how the video represents everyone.

Ericka thanked project leadership for diving into the growth of this organization. She also thanked the HAAB members for their input on the new brand and she acknowledged that their input helped to get us where we are today.

Design Update

James began with a discussion of the design survey. This survey is the result of recent HAAB comments on the need to bring design options to the broader community. The design team intends to come back to the HAAB in June with a summary of survey feedback. James then asked the HAAB to share the survey link with their communities and networks.

James said that the design team is hoping to replicate this process for other design elements, with three or four more surveys that will go out to the public this year. He reiterated that there are other ways to engage with the broader community about design, and that the Youth Design Forum is coming up on Saturday, May 14.

Andrew added that this upcoming workshop is an opportunity to model what the HAAB has been saying about getting the younger generation more involved with the project.

Ericka reminded the HAAB that the project team is looking to them to help get the word out to Black and Brown youth. She noted that registration has not yet opened.

James then used the Miro board to facilitate this month's design discussion.

Wall 15

James started with a discussion of Wall 15, which is in a prominent location and visible from the Moda Center and Steel Bridge. Marianne said there is an existing wall in this location that will need to be completely rebuilt. Existing trees will need to be removed to facilitate construction. Every design option for the new wall will revegetate the area. James noted that in Central Portland, the governance of signage is robust, and there will be an approval process with the City. He added that Wall 15 is easily accessible with a sidewalk running parallel to it, and it's a very large wall at the human scale.

James and Marianne then provided an overview of the different design options for Wall 15 and asked the HAAB members for their input.

Discussion

- Sprinavasa asked the design team if this wall is ideal for highlighting the history of Albina due to its location, relative to other walls in the project area.
 - James responded that there are 20-plus walls on this project, but this is the largest and most conspicuous wall that faces the community. The wall near Tubman primarily faces the highway, with part of it visible from the school.
 - Megan added that Wall 15 is adjacent to the Rose Quarter Transit Center, so there's a lot of additional visibility there.
- Sprinavasa said that she really likes the idea of the wall highlighting history. She asked if older trees are removed, how many have to be replanted? She would like to see native and edible plants included in the landscaping.
 - Marianne responded that within ODOT right-of-way, ODOT is not required to meet the City's tree code. She noted that the team is trying to maximize evergreens and other native plants, especially shrubs. Trees and shrubs both collect particulate pollutants, which makes edible plants a bad fit. There is a plant list for Early Work Package B, which can be shared with the HAAB.

James asked if there are options that HAAB members like particularly well, or if there are any that should be removed from consideration. He added that the wall options will be shared with the broader community in a future design survey, so nothing has to be finalized today.

- Estelle commented that she really likes Option C. If Option B is chosen, she would prefer the wall to read "WE'RE STILL HERE" instead of "ALBINA LIVES." She is also concerned about the trees being removed. She favored the art component of Option D and said that could be a good way to engage the community. Her top two preferences were Options A and C.
 - Marianne responded that there will be a count for the number of trees that are replanted, and the team is maximizing vegetation in all of the options.
- Andrew said he would like to see a combination of Options A and C.
- Sprinavasa and Sharon said that they didn't care for the phrase "ALBINA LIVES" as an option.
- Bryson likes having the lettering above the wall itself as shown in Option A, but he would like to incorporate the historic photos from Option C. If there is a rotating mural, he asked if the panels could be auctioned off to support the community.
 - James responded that the short answer is yes. A rotating mural will need administration, which will require partnership.
 - Bill added that the design team is also considering how to partner with nearby landowners.
 - Marianne added that the panels in Option D have a limited life span in which they will look good outdoors, which is about 5 years.

James proposed that the design team strike Option B from consideration and no opposition was voiced from HAAB members.

Bridge Treatments

James said there are six locations with new bridges that have an edge facing the community. He asked the HAAB if it is important to incorporate design elements on the bridges near the Moda Center and Convention Center.

- Andrew asked if these design elements will be applied to pedestrian bridges as well.
 - James responded that the Clackamas Overcrossing is not a component of the Proposed Hybrid 3 Concept, so we are just looking at roadway bridges.

James asked for confirmation that Russell should have special treatment.

- HAAB members responded in the affirmative.

James noted that Multnomah and Holladay will have one large bridge going over both streets. Incorporating design elements that face west makes sense because there's high foot traffic there. He asked if HAAB members feel that the east side should also have a design treatment.

- Andrew asked for confirmation that the transit center is on the west side of the bridge. He noted that the east side also gets a lot of eyes.
 - James confirmed that the west side faces the transit center and agreed that the east side of Holladay does have good foot traffic due to its proximity to the convention center hotel.
- Andrew also asked if one large treatment could be used over Multnomah and Holladay.
 - James confirmed this.

Tiffany provided an overview of the west side of the Multnomah and Holladay Bridge. Trees near the Moda Center will not be impacted by construction, so they will obscure views from some angles. There are a lot of scales and levels of boldness and intensity that can be used here.

- Sharon said she is excited to think about what this area will look like. She said she has been struggling with how to acknowledge the history and the legacy of Albina here. Since it was a vibrant place, the design elements should also be vibrant, but not gimmicky. She added that she recently visited her parents' former home in Albina, and she had a great conversation about the neighborhood's history and legacy with a white couple from California who just bought it. That's the kind of conversation she wants these design elements to prompt.
 - Tiffany responded that the design team has also been having that dialogue about incorporating bold and vibrant elements in a genuine way.
- Sharon said she would like to see a destination tour in the project area.
 - Bryson and Dr. Holt said they also like this idea.
 - James responded that a walking tour is a great idea, and the design team is keeping in mind the pedestrian experience.
- Kevin asked if local artisans have been contacted.

- James agreed that an artist program is needed and responded it has not yet been set up because the locations with art need to be identified as a first step.
- Bryson commented that he thinks the MAX station is a great place to focus because people are lingering there, and they have time to engage with the design treatments.
- Dr Richard asked how much space will be dedicated to narrative elements focused on history and storytelling. He also asked how far east design elements can be installed.
 - James responded that the amount of space for narrative elements hasn't yet been determined, and that the HAAB can directly influence this. The project does have a boundary where investments can be made, and it doesn't go very far east of I-5.
- Sharon said that the more she looks at the photos of the east face of the Holladay Bridge, she thinks it invites more treatment. She added that this is an uninviting area right now, especially since it's an entertainment district.
 - James responded that partnerships come in to play here.
 - Megan added that the Moda Center will be engaged in traffic-related designs, so she can carry this forward in those discussions.
 - Sharon said that she would like to hear the Moda Center's thoughts on how they can partner.
- In response to Sharon's question in the chat around timelines.
 - James responded that the design team would like to start making decisions in September and have all of the design elements identified by the end of the year.
- Andrew asked if some of this can be presented at the youth workshop on May 14.
 - James responded that yes, this is all potential material for the workshop.

Next Steps / Adjourn

Ericka reviewed the next steps for the project. She reminded HAAB members that the project team needs their help distributing the design survey. She then thanked the board members for their time and reminded them that there will be another Design Collaboration Forum in May. She also thanked project leadership for their work, and she invited Dr. Holt to provide closing comments.

Dr. Holt closed out the meeting by saying that change never happens with ease, and it always requires more of us than we anticipate. He thanked the HAAB members for owning this work, especially since the benefits will be seen by future generations.

Ericka adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.

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).