

HISTORIC ALBINA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #19 SUMMARY

Date: May 17, 2022
Time: 4:30–5:30 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
- Andrew Campbell
- Estelle Lavespere
- Kevin Modica
- Leslie Goodlow
- John Washington
- Sprinavasa Brown
- Bryson Davis

Historic Albina Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance

- Dr. Carlos Richard
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Carl Talton
- Dr. Ebony Amato-Blackmon
- 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
- Tia Williams, Urban Mobility Office Communications Director
- James McGrath, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Urban Design Team
- Tiffany Swift, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Urban Design Team
- Bill Hart, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Urban Design Team
- Marianne Zarkin, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project Urban 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
- Youth Design Forum Recap
- Urban Design Team 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.

Project Updates

Tia Williams, Urban Mobility Office Communications Director, shared project updates.

Tia first provided an update on the inter-governmental 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 early- to mid-June. It would be impactful if some HAAB members could testify at this Council meeting.

Tia then let the HAAB know that fieldwork will be taking place in the project area in late May through June. This is pre-development work, not construction work, and is combined with other scheduled ODOT maintenance work to minimize disruption.

Youth Design Forum Recap

Sprinavasa Brown provided an overview of the Youth Design Forum that took place on Saturday, May 14. She started by thanking everyone who participated in the event. Overall, it was a very successful and positive experience, with over 60 youth participating.

Sprinavasa then provided a snapshot of some of the ideas generated at the forum, which included:

- Collect and transparently share data on noise and air pollution during construction.
- Build a community space with purified air where people can seek refuge from air pollution.
- Host an Oculus virtual reality tour of Albina.

- Install solar “trees” to generate renewable energy.
- Consider a career development center, mental health center and historic amusement park on the future highway cover.
- Create a Black Youth Commission hosted by ODOT, as existing project meetings aren’t always accessible for youth.
- Host another Youth Design Forum.

Sprinavasa added that the youth were also clear about what they don’t want to see on the cover, including smoke shops, condos, offices, a bigger law enforcement presence and violence.

Andrew said it was nice to witness and hear from the younger generation, and he looks forward to future engagement with them.

Keith Edwards said he is happy to hear this event went well, as it’s an example of what the HAAB has been talking about for so long. He added that youth have new ideas and think differently, and their perspectives are important. He thanked Sprinavasa for her work on the event.

Dr. Holt said that it was a great event, and the team had opportunities to correct some misconceptions about the project. He added that this was a great beginning, and he’s looking forward to next time. He thanked Sprinavasa and Ericka for their work.

Ericka turned it over to James to provide updates on the urban design team’s work.

Urban Design Team Updates

James began with a summary of initial results from the public design survey. Approximately 318 responses were received and 97211, 97212, 97217 and 97202 were the four top zip codes for responses. Demographic questions were mandatory, and the survey had a higher response rate from Black community members than past surveys. The design team would like to have more youth respondents in future surveys.

Respondents expressed a clear preference for the oval medallions designed by PDX Black Excellence. There was also a clear preference for variety in the medallions, so all of the designs can be featured throughout the project area.

James noted that in the open-ended responses, the community expressed ideas that echo what the HAAB has been talking about. He added that surveys aren’t the only tool at our disposal. There is the potential for focus groups and additional youth forums as well.

Estelle asked if there was representation from Outer East Portland.

- James said that although 97211, 97212, 97217 and 97202 were the top respondents, plenty of other zip codes were well-represented, including in Outer East Portland.
- Ericka added that the number of respondents who identify as Black or African was higher than in past surveys, which may reflect the HAAB members’ networks. The goal with these surveys is to elevate the voices of the Black community while still being open to everyone.

Keith commented that it would be helpful to have a map of the respondent zip codes with the numbers of respondents overlaid along with their ethnicities.

- James responded that the project team will try to get as much granularity as possible.

Narrative Elements

James said that last month's meeting was focused on walls and bridges, with some discussion around the importance of narrative. What words should we use in the design elements?

Tiffany used the Miro board to discuss six potential chapters of narrative history that can be recognized in highly visible places.

1. Steel Bridge: Intro to Albina
2. Rose Quarter Transit Center: 12 Pillars of Albina – Identifying key leaders, organizations and industry that uphold the Black community
3. Grassy area north of the Moda Center: Cultural heritage of the African diaspora and Indigenous cultures
4. Williams Walk: Chronological history of Black people in Oregon starting with Indigenous populations to present
5. Harriet Tubman Middle School: Focus on women of color and education
6. Russell Street: History of Russell Street and Black entrepreneurship

Bill then provided an overview of some of the historical events that the Williams Walk could feature.

Discussion

- Keith suggested that the HAAB virtually visit the National Center for Civil and Human Rights if possible. This museum has a lunch counter where visitors can put on earphones and experience what it was like to be there in the 1960s. To acknowledge the history, he thought it was important for the content to change over seasons and over time. Keith wants to acknowledge as much of our history as we can.
 - James responded that there can be some dynamic elements in the installations, but some things will need to be static. One possibility is a public space where folks can walk through and read some milestones in Black Oregon history.
- Sprinavasa said that she would love to see a connection to Maxville, as a lot of folks don't know about the Black logging history there. She added it will be crucial to have public/private partnerships, like with the Oregon Historical Society, so that walking tours have an established curriculum with ideas for conversation.
- Bryson suggested that the design team incorporate QR codes.
 - Bill responded that Sprinavasa and Bryson's suggestions are doable. The Pillars of Albina can incorporate QR codes that provide additional information. There are so many people and organizations that can be recognized.
- John Washington asked where these ideas and designs came from. He suggested the Albina Plan as a source for ideas, and suggested recognition of the Cockstock Incident.

- Bill responded that he has reviewed the Albina Plan, but is not yet familiar with the Cockstock Incident. He said that most of these initial ideas came from within the urban design team, with inspiration from a lot of designs in other places.
- Keith commented that he wants to make sure it's acknowledged that Mercedes Deiz was not only the first Black woman admitted to the Oregon State Bar, she was also the first Black circuit court judge in Oregon and the first woman of color to become a judge in Oregon.

James said that in June, the design team will provide more details about the May survey results. The team will also discuss potential content for another public survey this summer that will focus on walls and bridges.

Next Steps / Adjourn

Ericka reviewed the next steps for the project. She reminded HAAB members that the project team is looking for their feedback and edits on the draft letter to City Council, which will ideally be a joint letter from the HAAB and COAC.

Dr. Holt closed out the meeting by thanking HAAB members for their time and investment in this process.

Ericka adjourned the meeting at 5:48 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).