

Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission Meeting Agenda

August 8, 2024
12:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Attendance Options

[Join online via Microsoft Teams](#)
[+1 347-941-5324,,463292035#](#)

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 13, 2024
- b. July 11, 2024

3. Executive Session

- a. Potential Litigation RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii) - 10 mins

4. Workshop

- a. Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update
- b. Cultural Access Discussion

5. Commission and Staff Reports

- a. Cultural Services Manager
- b. Commission President
- c. Clark County Art Commission

6. Community Communications

****The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:**

- In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting.
- Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8307 or email

parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting

- In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8307 or email

parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting.

7. Open Discussion & New Business

8. Adjournment

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Reid, Percival, Richardson, Mercado, Gaspar, Rafferty, Harrington and Ford

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Dave Perlick, Kirsten Hull, Tricia Juetttemeyer, Alicia Nilo, Melody Burton and Katherine Stokke

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The June 13, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Vice President Reid in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Rafferty and Richardson entered at 12:04 and 12:23, respectively.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ford, seconded by Mercado, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from May 7, 2024.

Item 3: Tower Mall Mural Panels

Amy Zoltie, Real Estate Manager, gave an overview of the Heights District development project. The development site is bounded by Mill Plain Blvd, MacArthur Blvd and Andresen Rd and this project was installed in the city-owned Tower Mall Redevelopment Area subsection.

Members

Brad Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Beth Harrington
Julie Mercado
Ricky Gaspar
Lee Rafferty
Vacant
Rebekah Percival
Russell Ford, CCAC

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

P.O. Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668
360-487-8311
TTY: 711
cityofvancouver.us

The site is currently vacant and will remain so until a developer is contracted to build it out in Q3 2026. City council asked for activation of the site in the interim. Public art was identified as a feasible project that would have a high community impact. First Forty Feet designed a painted bike garden with 3D mural panels interspersed throughout. There could be an opportunity for the Commission to install additional artwork, but no budget has been identified.

Commissioners had questions about the mural's life expectancy and design. Staff offered to request that information from First Forty Feet.

Item 4: Application Subcommittee Recommendation

Reid summarized the subcommittee's discussion. 21 applications were collected for the vacant seat. Reid suggested reaching out to the applicants with other opportunities to serve on local boards or volunteer, noting that the Commission receives 15-20 applications per vacancy.

Gaspar asked about the potential to expand the Commission. The Commission expressed interest in discussing changes to the Commission's charter at a future meeting.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to recommend Naomi O'Connor, Corey Hing, and Lucius Shields for consideration by the City Council Subcommittee.

Item 5: Arts Hub Initial Activation Update

Perlick gave an overview of work accomplished during the initial activation phase of the arts hub building. The City has contracted with theARTScentered to oversee community use during this phase. The opportunity to use the space has been announced on the City's webpage, including a webform to request access.

Richardson suggested that theARTScentered collect photographs and testimonials from current users to be incorporated into future materials for the long-term vision of the arts hub. Perlick agreed, adding that the building will be open to the public for a sneak peek during July First Friday.

Item 6: Cultural Services Report

Perlick gave the following updates:

- Vancouver Arts and Music Festival will be held August 2-4, with double the number of artists from last year.
- The City is facing a significant budget deficit for the next biennium. PRCS has been assigned a 15% reduction in budget to address the gap and this will result in a reduction in services. Richardson encouraged the commission to advocate for limiting cuts to PRCS, contending that reductions in this department will have significant impact to livability.
- City Council has signaled support for adopting a Cultural Access tax and has identified the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission as the entity to guide its establishment in Vancouver. A subcommittee was formed to consider recommendations. Richardson, Reid, Gaspar and Harrington volunteered.

Item 7: President's Report

Richardson noted that the Cultural Access group has been looking at potential changes to the Commission's charter and bylaws to support transitioning the existing commission to a Cultural Access Advisory Committee.

Item 8: Cultural Access Update

No additional discussion presented.

Item 9: Clark County Arts Commission Update

Ford reported that the Clark County Arts Commission will lose two important leaders in the coming months and failing recruitment of new members interested in taking on a leadership role from the start, the commission could disband. There has been discussion of advocating for city-based commissions in other cities like Ridgefield and Camas since the County Commission does not have budget or staff.

Item 10: Public Comment

None presented.

Item 11: Commissioner Update and New Business

Rafferty announced that VDA is doing a grand opening block party for the mural installed on the Evergreen Blvd overpass and acknowledged Ford as the instigator for that project.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 11, 2024
12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Reid, Percival, Gaspar, Rafferty and Ford

Commissioners Absent:

Richardson, Mercado and Harrington

Staff Present:

Stacey Donovan, Dave Perlick, Kirsten Hull, Tricia Juettemeyer, Melody Burton and Katherine Stokke, Katherine Kelly, and Lori Severino

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The July 11, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission was recessed to the next regular meeting in August due to lack of quorum. No action was taken.

Members

Brad Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Beth Harrington
Julie Mercado
Ricky Gaspar
Lee Rafferty
Vacant
Rebekah Percival
Russell Ford, CCAC

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

P.O. Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668
360-487-8311
TTY: 711
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To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:
Kirsten Hull | 360-487-8307 | TTY: 711 | kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us

DATE: July 11, 2024

TO: President Brad Richardson and Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission members
CC: Stacey Donovan, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department

FROM: Shilpa Mallem, Design Manager, Interstate Bridge Replacement Program
Hayli Reff, Cultural Resources Manager, Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

RE: Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update

Background

The City of Vancouver is one of eight local partner agencies on the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) program, which covers a five-mile corridor along Interstate 5, including the Interstate Bridge and seven interchanges. At this meeting, IBR program staff will provide a general program overview, a brief overview of the Section 106 process, and conduct a walkthrough of the preliminary map of the proposed program investments currently being evaluated in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The proposed program investments associated with the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative approved in 2022, include a replacement bridge over the Columbia River, interchange and roadway improvements, extension of light rail service with two stations in Downtown Vancouver, enhanced bus services and connections, and new pedestrian/bicycle facilities such as a shared use path over the river. The presentation will focus primarily on the proposed program investments in Vancouver.

The IBR program is conducting a robust cultural resources consultation process, as federally mandated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This process requires consideration of the effects on historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The feedback that we gather from this process will help us understand these important places.

Section 106 and NEPA are separate laws that federal agencies must comply with, and both establish a process to evaluate impacts that result from project design and operation, including impacts to cultural resources and the environment. The laws also require that consultation is undertaken with tribes, consulting parties and the general public on potential impacts and mitigation. Federal guidance encourages these reviews to occur simultaneously, such that one review informs the other. The program is coordinating these evaluations and both reviews are being taken into consideration as design progresses.

Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update

July 11, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Timeline

The IBR team is preparing to release the Draft SEIS for a 60-day public comment period later in 2024. All comments received during this time will be compiled into a Final SEIS, along with responses to the comments. Based on public feedback and additional analysis, the IBR team in coordination with program partners will narrow down the design options into a single solution for moving forward into construction. The environmental review process will result in an Amended Record of Decision (ROD), which is currently anticipated to occur in 2025. The Amended ROD allows the IBR program to begin using funds for construction.

Action and Next Steps

No action is requested with this presentation. The information presented at this meeting is intended to increase awareness of the IBR program and prepare Commission members for the upcoming public comment period and subsequent steps. City staff working on the IBR program will continue to keep the Commission updated. For detailed information, please refer to: <https://www.interstatebridge.org>.

Staff Contact

Katherine Kelly, Senior Policy Advisor, Community Development Department,

Katherine.Kelly@cityofvancouver.us

Lori Severino, Senior Planner, Community Development Department,

Lori.Severino@cityofvancouver.us

Attachment(s): None.



City of Vancouver Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission: IBR Program Update

August 8, 2024

Katherine Kelly, Policy Advisor
Lori Severino, Senior Planner

Shilpa Mallem, IBR Design Manager
January Tavel, IBR Cultural Resources



Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

- ▶ **Critical connection linking Oregon and Washington across the Columbia River**
 - Part of a vital regional, national, and international trade route
 - The only movable bridge on I-5 between Canada and Mexico
 - One span over 100 years old
 - At risk for collapse in the event of a major earthquake
 - \$1.2 million in annual Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs
 - Capital maintenance is estimated to cost over \$270 million by 2040



Initiating Efforts

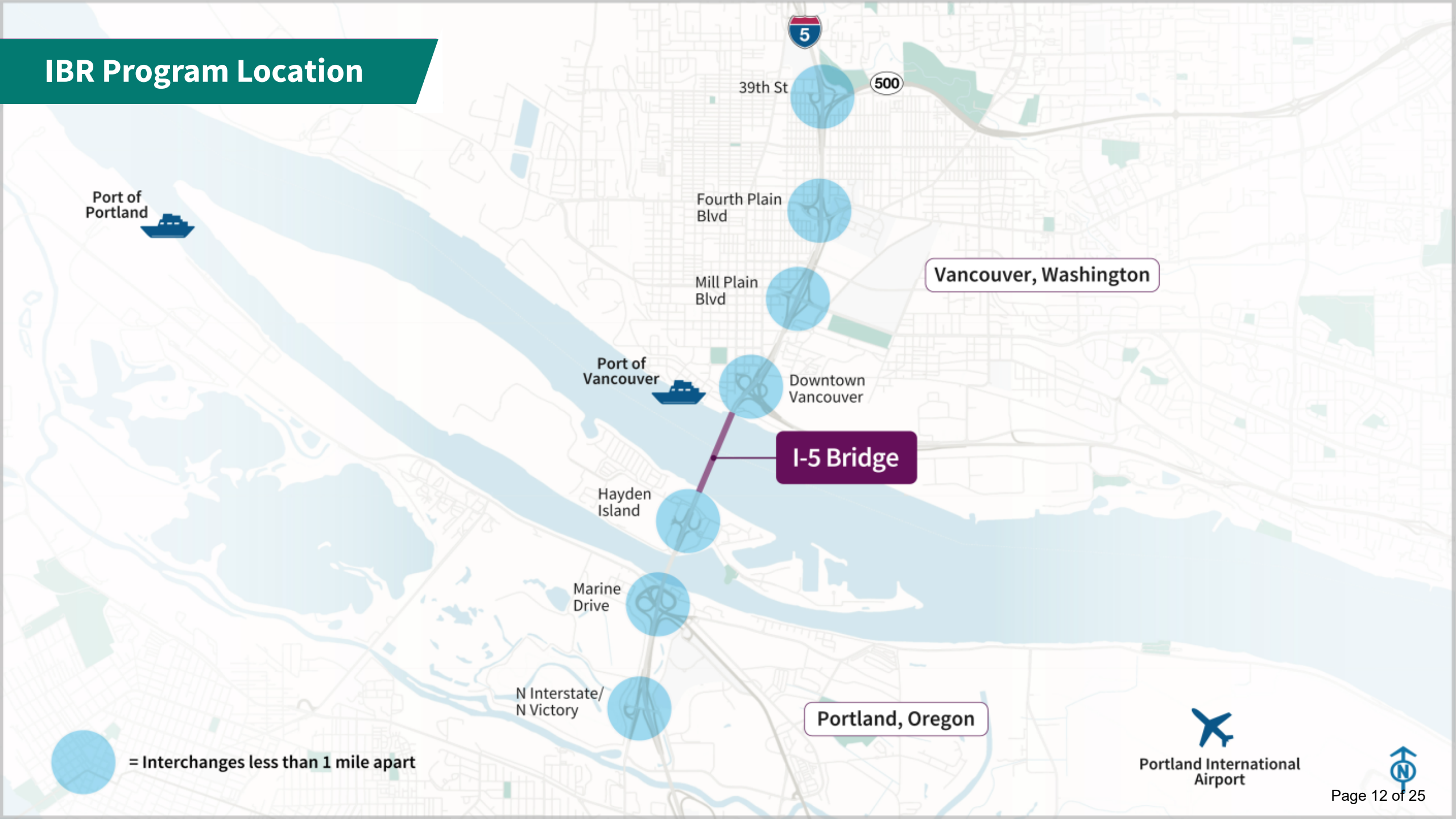
- ▶ **Bi-State Memorandum of Intent signed by Governors Brown and Inslee in November 2019.**
- ▶ **Bi-state legislative committee oversight and guidance shapes program work.**
- ▶ **The Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation are jointly leading the Interstate Bridge Replacement program work in collaboration with eight other bi-state partner agencies.**
 - TriMet
 - C-TRAN
 - Oregon Metro
 - SW WA Regional Transportation Council
 - City of Portland
 - City of Vancouver
 - Port of Portland
 - Port of Vancouver
- ▶ **Greg Johnson was hired as program administrator to lead the replacement program on behalf of ODOT and WSDOT.**



Photo courtesy of Office of Governor Kate Brown



IBR Program Location




Portland International
Airport

Purpose and Need



Safety: Narrow lanes, no shoulders, poor sight distances, bridge lifts, and short ramp distances for merging contribute to crashes.



Earthquake vulnerability:
In a major earthquake, the bridge would likely be significantly damaged, potentially beyond repair.



Impaired freight movement:
Congestion and bridge lifts slow down freight carrying goods along I-5, a critical economic trade route on the West Coast.



Inadequate bike & pedestrian paths:
Narrow shared use paths, low railing heights, and lack of dedicated pathways impede safe travel.



Congestion: Over 143,000 vehicles crossed the Interstate Bridge each weekday in 2019 with more than 10 hours of daily congestion.



Limited public transportation:
Limited transit options and existing bus service can be unreliable due to traffic congestion and bridge lifts.

Equity and Climate are Key Priorities



Members of Advisory Groups on Bridge Tour

- ▶ **Maximize benefits and minimize burdens for equity priority communities**
- ▶ **Center equity priority community engagement and feedback**
- ▶ **Support state climate goals of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and air quality improvements**
- ▶ **Improve infrastructure resilience to future climate disruptions**

Program Schedule

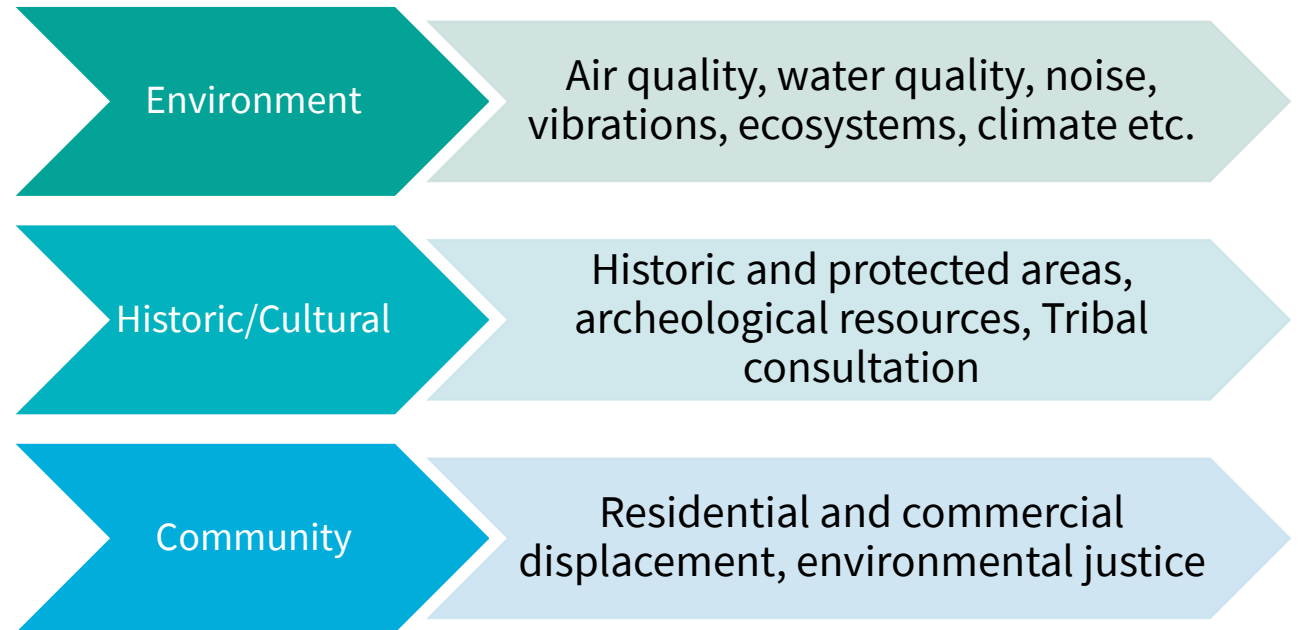


Schedule will be updated as needed to reflect program changes and timeline.

What is NEPA?

National Environmental Policy Act of 1970

- ▶ Requires federal agencies to **assess and disclose environmental effects of proposed actions** prior to making decisions.
- ▶ Ensures agencies consider public comments as part of their decision making.



Elements of the Environmental Analysis

- ▶ Acquisitions
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Archaeology
- ▶ Aviation
- ▶ Climate
- ▶ Cumulative
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Ecosystems
- ▶ Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Geology and Groundwater
- ▶ Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Historic Built Environment
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Neighborhoods and Populations
- ▶ Noise and Vibration
- ▶ Parks and Recreation
- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Section 4(f)
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Utilities
- ▶ Visual and Aesthetics
- ▶ Water Quality and Hydrology
- ▶ Wetlands

What is Being Studied in the Draft SEIS?

The Modified LPA will be compared to a No-Build Alternative

► Modified Locally Preferred Alternative

- Improve active transportation facilities and connections
- Extend LRT from Expo to Evergreen Blvd + bus on shoulder
- Three new LRT stations
- Replace bridges over Columbia River and North Portland Harbor
- Modify seven interchanges on I-5
- Three through lanes and at least one auxiliary lane in each direction

► No-Build Alternative

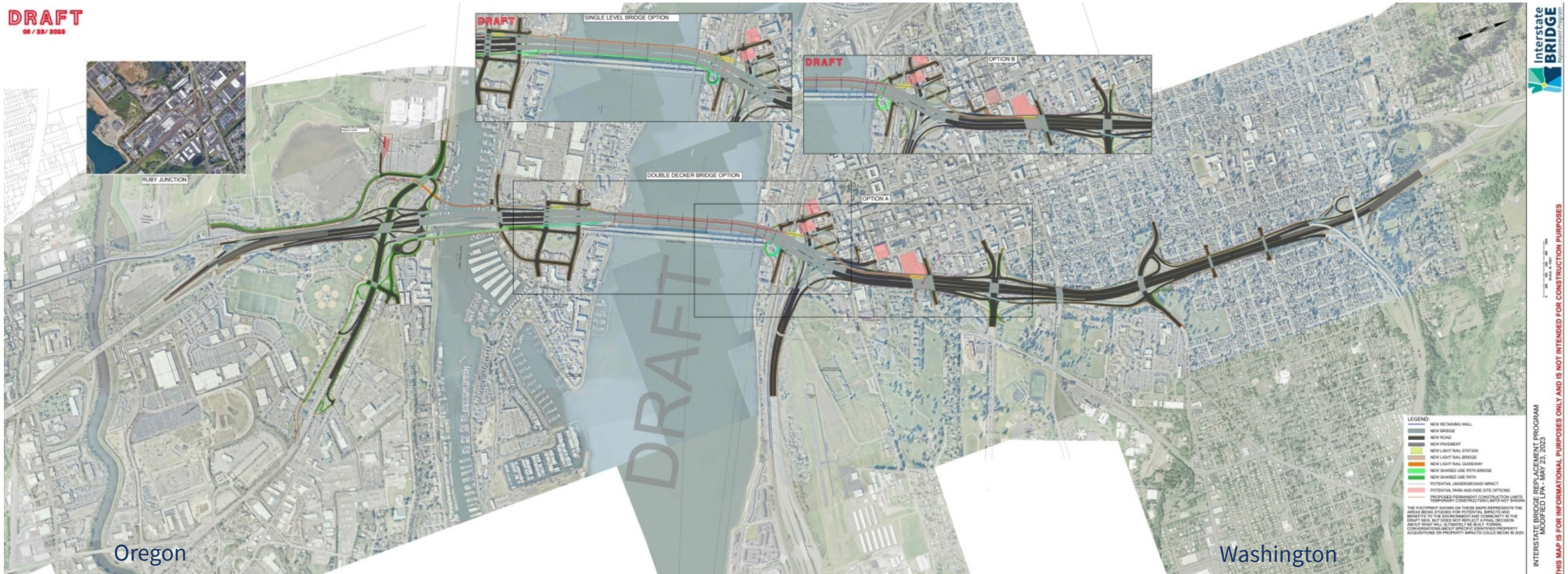
- None of the improvements associated with Modified LPA would be implemented
- Other planned projects that are independent of the IBR program would proceed

► Design Options being Studied

- Bridge configuration: Movable span, single-level, double-deck/stacked
- C Street ramps to/from I-5
- Inclusion of one or two auxiliary lanes
- Possible park & rides at Waterfront and Evergreen Transit stations
- I-5 alignment shift between SR14 and Mill Plain Blvd

Program Area Map

- Investments shown represent the areas being studied in the Draft SEIS and do not reflect a final decision about what will be built.

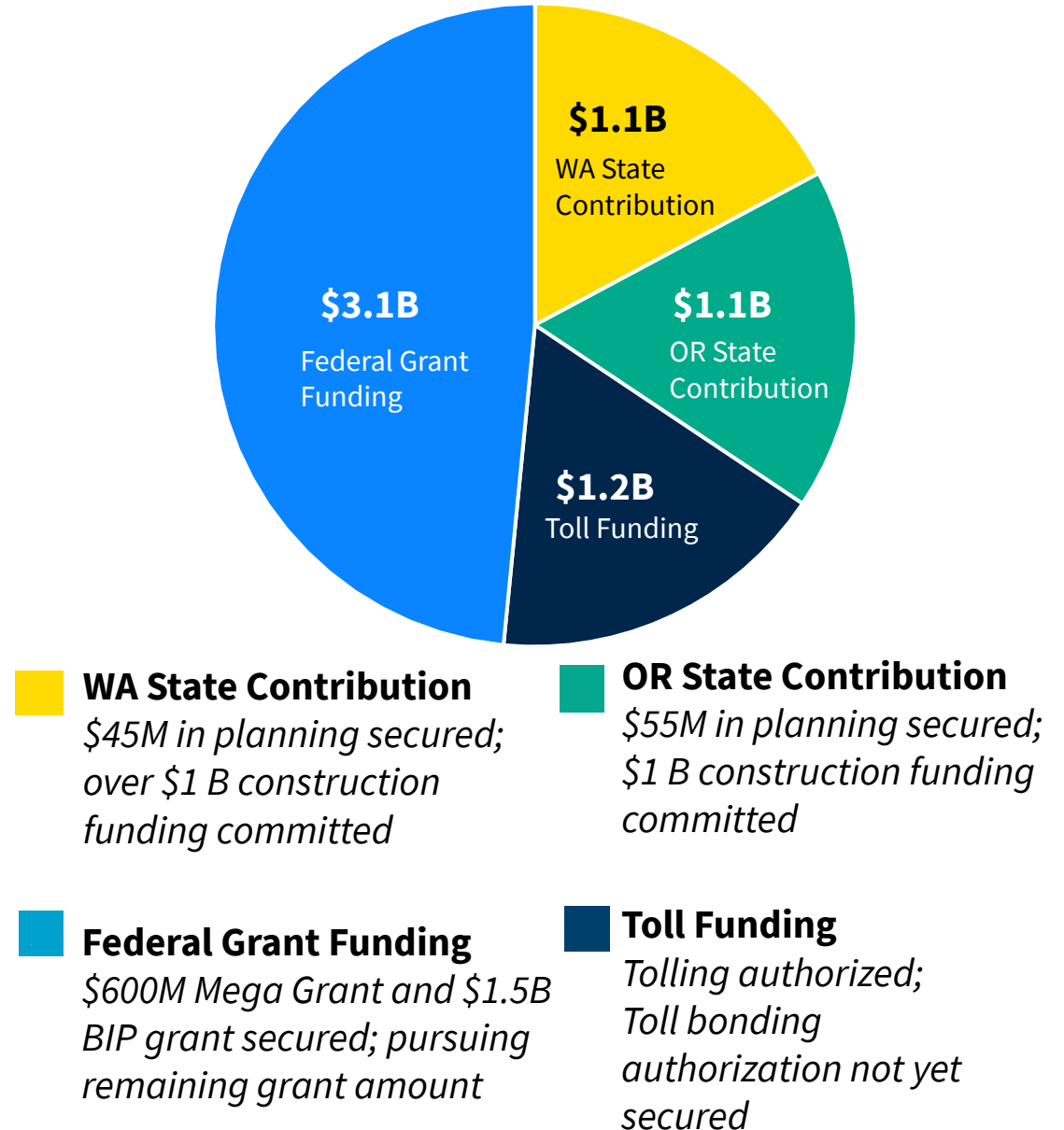


Program area map is available at: www.interstatebridge.org/media/fnjo04j/mlpa-roll-plot-5-25-23.pdf

IBR Program Funding

- ▶ **Federal funds, tolling, and state funds are needed to address the estimated cost range of \$5-\$7.5 billion.**
 - Bridge tolls will help pay for the new bridge and its continued operation and maintenance through the duration of the construction loan.
- ▶ **Cost estimates will be refined as the federal review process progresses and the program advances design of IBR investments.**

Potential Program Funding Sources





IBR Section 106 Update

January Tavel, IBR Cultural Resources

Section 106 Process

- ▶ **Step 1: Initiating Section 106**
- ▶ **Step 2: Identifying Historic Properties**
- ▶ **Step 3: Assessing Effects**
- ▶ **Step 4: Achieving a Resolution**



Programmatic Agreement

- ▶ **Programmatic Agreement (PA) last step in IBR Section 106 process**
- ▶ **Mitigation consultation with Section 106 consulting parties has been focus for 2024**
- ▶ **PA will establish process for Section 106 during construction**
- ▶ **PA will identify Section 106 mitigation for known adverse effects**



Stay Connected & Get Involved

- ▶ Join us for IBR office hours, in person or virtually, and get your questions answered! Visit interstatebridge.org/calendar to schedule an appointment, email info@interstatebridge.org or call
- ▶ Sign-up for our monthly newsletter: interstatebridge.org/news
- ▶ Attend a program meeting or community engagement event: interstatebridge.org/calendar
- ▶ Comments? Questions? Email info@interstatebridge.org
- ▶ Follow us on social media: @IBRprogram





Thank you!



www.interstatebridge.org