

March 6, 2020

Chris Warner
Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation
1120 SW 5th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Recommendations for OTC Action on I-5 Rose Quarter Project

Director Warner:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to gather community input on Portland's transportation priorities through PBOT's Bureau and Budget Advisory Committee (BBAC). We appreciate your commitment to transparent and inclusive decision-making.

At its next meeting, the Oregon Transportation Committee (OTC) will consider a number of actions with regard to the I-5 Rose Quarter Project. PBOT's Strategic Plan states that the City of Portland will evaluate all transportation investments by the extent to which they advance equity and reduce carbon emissions. In our advisory role to PBOT, the BBAC urges PBOT to ensure that its engagement in the I-5 Project is consistent with these goals and we recommend that OTC take the following actions:

1. Require a Full Environmental Impact Statement

BBAC requests that you ask the OTC direct the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to complete a full Environmental Impact Statement for the I-5 Rose Quarter Project. This step is essential to ensure that the project aligns with Portland's goals for climate change and equity.

2. Create an Inclusive Executive Advisory Committee with Oversight Authority

BBAC supports the creation of an Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) for this project. To ensure this committee promotes a community-led process, the EAC must meet the following criteria. **First**, it should include local elected officials, representatives from local labor unions, project area residents, and stakeholders from community-based organizations serving historically marginalized communities in the project area. **Second**, OTC should empower the EAC to have oversight authority throughout the duration of the project. ODOT's project management team should be accountable to EAC decisions, stated principles, and project guidance. The inclusion of community members within the EAC should not prevent the formation of the Project Community Advisory Committee proposed by OTC. Community partnership is an indispensable part of fair and equitable decision-making.

We hope that OTC will consider and adopt these recommendations at its upcoming meeting on March 19, 2020. Chris, please send a copy of this letter to the OTC members listed below.

Thank you,
PBOT BBAC

Cc: Bob Van Brocklin, Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission
Alando Simpson, Vice Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission
Martin Callery, Commissioner, Oregon Transportation Commission

Julie Brown, Commissioner, Oregon Transportation Commission
Sharon Smith, Commissioner, Oregon Transportation Commission