

# I-5 and I-205 Toll Projects

## EMAC Reception Summary



<b>Subject</b>	Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee Reception
<b>Date and Time</b>	May 27, 2020   5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Online via Zoom

### EQUITY AND MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EMAC)

Attendees	Organization
Abe Moland	Clackamas County Health and Transportation
Amanda Garcia-Snell	Washington County Community Engagement
Bill Baumann	Human Services Council
Diana Avalos Leos	League of United Latin American Citizens; Latino Youth Conference
Dr. Philip Wu	Oregon Environmental Council
Dwight Brashear	SMART
Eduardo Ramos	At-large member; City of Tigard
Fabian Hidalgo Guerrero	Causa
Germaine Flentroy	Beyond Black/Play, Grow, Learn
Ismael Armenta	At-large member; Oregon Walks
James Paulson	WorkSystems Inc Board
John Gardner	TriMet
Kari Schlosshauer	At-large member; Safe Routes Partnership
Michael Espinoza	Portland Bureau of Transportation
Park Woodworth	Ride Connection
Alando Simpson (Oregon Transportation Commission liaison)	Oregon Transportation Commission Vice Chair
Phil Ditzler (ex-officio member)	Federal Highway Administration

### PROJECT TEAM

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Hannah Williams	ODOT	Josh Channell	WSP
Lucinda Broussard	ODOT	Joey Posada	EnviroIssues
Nikotris Perkins	ODOT	Carina Garcia	EnviroIssues
Brendan Finn	ODOT	Penny Mabie	EnviroIssues
Anne Pressentin	WSP	Brett Watson	EnviroIssues
Heather Wills	WSP	Christine Moses	Buffalo Cloud Consulting

## **WELCOME**

Christine Moses, Buffalo Cloud Consulting, LLC, and meeting facilitator, welcomed the Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee (EMAC) members. She explained that the purpose of the Reception is for the group to get to know each other and begin their work as a committee. She said the Committee is an essential element for ODOT to engage with the community and make this effort successful. Christine provided an overview of how to use the basic functions of the Zoom platform. She also reminded everyone that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will record the Reception and all future meetings. All meetings, including the messages received in the Chat, are part of the public record and open to public records requests through the Oregon Public Records and Meetings Law.

Christine introduced Joey Posada and Penny Mabie, both with EnviroIssues. Christine provided contact information to reach Joey in case there was a need for technical assistance. She encouraged EMAC members to use a journal or notebook to write down Joey's contact information and any other information they discussed in future meetings. She also explained that Penny would be helping facilitate the group discussion by monitoring Zoom activity.

Christine explained the process for submitting public comment via email.

Christine reviewed the agenda for the meeting and acknowledged the land to honor and respect Native American tribes.

## **COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS**

Christine invited EMAC members to introduce themselves by sharing their names and the reason they chose to participate in the committee:

- Abe Moland – Health and Transportation Planner with Clackamas County. Abe is a local agency equity representative for Clackamas County.
- Alando Simpson – Vice Chair with the Oregon Transportation Commission. Alando was co-chair of the Value Pricing Policy Advisory Committee. He shared the three priorities that came from that Committee: need for transit options, safety concerns associated with vehicles diverting from tolled highways and equity. He is excited to fulfill the work that the EMAC has been tasked to do.
- Amanda Garcia Snell – Community Engagement Manager with Washington County. Amanda has a background in health policy and equity. She is excited to represent a local agency and work on issues related to equity.
- Bill Baumann – Mobility Coordinator with Human Services Council. Bill works to increase transportation and access to services for seniors and people with disabilities. Bill represents SW Washington and Vancouver as well as underserved communities.

Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee Reception Summary  
May 27, 2020

- Diana Avalos Leos – Healthy Living Collaborative of SW Washington. Diana is involved with local advocacy groups and communities of color in SW Washington to address issues such as equity and access to resources. Diana looks forward to bringing her experience from other transportation projects.
- Dr. Philip Wu – Region 1 ACT Liaison. Phil is a retired physician and has connections to organizations such as Outside-In and Oregon Environment Council. Dr. Wu hopes that tolls have a positive benefit for the communities it will impact the most and that it will bring incentives to use a variety of modes of transportation.
- Dwight Brashear – South Metro Area Regional Transit Director with SMART. Dwight brings lived and professional experiences with equity and transportation. Dwight serves and represents communities outside Multnomah County and wants to have a lasting impact to help people.
- Eduardo Ramos – Digital Communications Coordinator with City of Tigard. Eduardo lives in Vancouver and is involved in the C-TRAN Citizens Advisory Committee and the City of Vancouver Transportation and Mobility Commission.
- Fabian Hidalgo Guerrero– Census Equity Manager with Causa. Fabian is interested in involving the public, specifically communities who will be impacted the most. Fabian looks forward to involving the immigrant community in this project.
- Germaine Flentroy – Community Organizer with Beyond Black/Play, Grow, Learn. Germaine emphasized the importance of involving communities that have historically been underrepresented or underserved. Germaine sees this opportunity as a way to communicate information back to the community and to keep others informed about the process.
- Ismael Armenta – Transportation Justice and Communications Manager with Oregon Walks. Ismael works with transit-dependent populations. Ismael wants to make sure that the voices of this population are represented.
- James Paulson – Business owner with WorkSystems Inc. Board. James has chosen to become involved in the EMAC because he is passionate about transportation and community involvement. James sees the EMAC as an opportunity to bring community voices together to benefit the city and the region overall.
- John Gardner – Equity and Inclusion Director with TriMet. John has concerns about the potential impacts of tolls on low-income communities and people of color. John hopes to be a progressive voice in moving those conversations forward in the process.

- Kari Schlosshauer – Senior Policy Manager with Safe Routes Partnership. Kari works with families to provide safe options to schools, transit and resources. She looks forward to working on topics related to mobility options and diversion.
- Michael Espinoza – Transportation Demand Specialist with Portland Bureau of Transportation. Michael works on Pricing for Equitable Mobility where they are looking to build an equity framework. Michael looks forward to bringing experiences from that committee to the EMAC.
- Park Woodworth – Ride Connection Board Member and Chair. Park has experience with topics related to mobility and accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities. Park hopes to work toward a toll system that will be beneficial to volunteer drivers, social service vans and people who do not have access to regular transit services.
- Phil Ditzler – Federal Highway Administration. Phil will support the work of ODOT and be a resource for information for the EMAC's work.

## **AGREEMENTS**

Christine provided an overview of the agreements the EMAC will be using throughout their time working together. Members expressed support with the agreements via head nods and thumbs up.

## **QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS**

### **Highway overview**

Christine reviewed a brief history of the national highway system.

### **Discussion**

Christine asked the EMAC members to reflect on the national highway system history and think about what highways provide. EMAC members shared their thoughts, including these key points:

- The highway system connects people and communities. It provides freedom and the opportunity to travel to new places safely and efficiently.
- Highways also provide more efficient travel to and within rural areas and the ability for workers to have reliable means of transportation, especially when taking transit is not an option.
- Highways move commerce and make it possible to have many of the goods we use. As the demand to move freight and people increases, it becomes difficult to meet those two needs using one system.

- Historically, highways have also disconnected communities and produce noise for people who live nearby, but have also connected communities across the country. The highway is also a source of gridlock and pollution and can bring a risk of disease transmission with increased connectivity.

Christine asked the EMAC members to reflect on what highways provide to them personally. EMAC members discussed, including these key points:

- Highways provide opportunity and connection for families.
- Highways are meant to provide efficiency and speed, though the more common experience now is frustration and anxiety due to congestion and safety concerns.
- One EMAC member commented that highways can either expand or contract one's world depending on how much time they can allocate to certain activities.
  - Christine pointed out the importance of time when thinking about the Triangle of Opportunity. The Triangle of Opportunity consists of: 1) where you live, 2) where you work, and 3) how you get there. Christine asked the members to reflect on this concept.

Christine asked the EMAC members to reflect on what transportation equity means to them. EMAC members shared their thoughts, including these key points:

- Access to opportunity and to the highway system. The highway should not have a greater impact on someone due to their socioeconomic status or location.
- Equity is having options to transportation, jobs and housing. Not everyone has the same options. Equity means having a choice and removing barriers to choices.
- Displacement affects the lived experiences and interactions of people.
- There is potential for tolls to have a negative impact on low income and underserved communities.
- There is concern about accessibility for people who are not able to provide transportation for themselves.
- There is a need to Educate the community on different options or alternatives.

Christine thanked the participants for their reflections and introduced the project team. Project staff each introduced themselves with their name and role.

## NEXT STEPS

Christine reviewed the next steps and informed the EMAC members that she would be following up to schedule one-on-one conversations with everyone to better understand their perspectives.

The first EMAC meeting is scheduled for June 29 at 5:30 pm. Christine will ask members for their availability for future meetings. At the next meeting, the group will discuss the charter and project background.

Christine again thanked the participants for attending the Reception and closed the meeting.

*Note: This document is only a summary of issues and actions from this meeting. It is not intended to be a transcript of the meeting, but rather an overview of points raised and responses from the Project Team. We have posted a full recording of the meeting on the [EMAC webpage](#).*

*The information in this document, and the public and agency input received, may be adopted or incorporated by reference into a future environmental review process to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.*

*Please note that EMAC member comments during meetings are part of the public record and open to public records requests through the Oregon Public Records and Meetings Law.*

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