

Equity Lens on Bridge Replacement



The twin I-5 bridges over the Columbia River between Portland and Vancouver are aging and are need of replacement, according to transportation officials

Forum to address black community concerns

Transportation leaders and are reaching out to the Black community as plans to replace the twin I-5 bridges over the Columbia River between north Portland and Vancouver move forward.

The Interstate Bridge Replacement program will host “Black Communities and their Relationships with Infrastructure,”

highlighting the importance of learning from the history of transportation infrastructure and the resulting displacement of Black communities, on Friday, Feb. 25 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The virtual roundtable discussion will feature prominent local Black leaders discussing how lessons learned from past harms are elevating equity-focused practices into current-day infrastructure projects.

Greg Johnson, IBR program administrator, will be joined by Portland City Commissioner and IBR Executive Steering Group member Jo Ann Hardesty, Vancouver NAACP President and

IBR Community Advisory Group member Jasmine Tolbert, Director of Outreach & Community Engagement in Global Diversity & Inclusion for Portland State University and IBR program Community Advisory Group Co-Chair Ed Washington, IBR program Principal Equity Officer Johnell Bell, and Assistant Professor at Portland State University and IBR program Equity Advisory Group Facilitator Dr. Roberta Hunte.

The session will be live-streamed on the Internet, available for playback on YouTube, and the IBR program Facebook page. To learn more, visit interstatebridge.org.

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Housing Advocates Lobby Lawmakers

The nonprofit The Community Alliance of Tenants is calling on Oregon legislators to include \$100 million in the budget for housing stability and homelessness prevention services during the current legislative Session.

The group is emphasizing the need for more funding to support the work of community organizations providing housing stability and homelessness prevention services, including emergency rent assistance, temporary shelter assistance, assistance with application fees and deposits, rapid re-housing services and wrap-around services.

Communities across the state are struggling to manage some of the highest rates of rent burdens and unsheltered homelessness in the nation. At the same time, Oregonians continue to be impacted by instability due to the pandemic.

“Oregon’s housing crisis, and the pandemic conditions



Marcus Mundy

that exacerbated it, have disproportionately affected people of color, families, and low-income communities,” said

Marcus Mundy, executive director of the Coalition of Communities of Color. “We are joining the call for additional funding because we agree our state needs a comprehensive solution to secure housing and prevent homelessness.”

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