

## **Interstate Bridge Replacement Program – Planning Phase Bi-State Legislative Committee Engagement**

A successful Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBRP) depends upon regular, informed engagement and communication between the state DOTs, the Bi-State Legislative Committee, key partners, and the public. As the IBRP moves into the planning phase, key points and topics of engagement lie ahead to review previous work, offer feedback on approaches moving forward, and provide guidance and direction on critical pathway decisions that will become foundational program components.

In addition to providing substantive policy and program-specific direction, the Bi-State Legislative Committee will also directly engage with regional advisory groups and the community.

As the program transitions into the planning phase beginning summer 2020, key points of legislative engagement include:

- Identifying the program Vision and Values Statement
- Re-evaluating the Program Purpose and Need
- Developing the program Community Engagement Plan
- Beginning program NEPA work

### **Vision and Values**

The Vision and Values Statement provides the foundation for developing criteria and performance measures that program alternatives are evaluated against. The program team will develop an approach, in coordination with the bi-state legislative committee, key partners, and the community, to identify the IBRP Vision and Values Statement. The program team will solicit feedback, seek guidance and direction from the bi-state legislative committee, and ultimately request endorsement of the developed approach, the final Statement, and the performance measures.

*Target date:* Dec 2020

#### *Key questions:*

- What are the qualities desired from the project?
- Does the final draft Vision and Values reflect feedback received?
- Are the performance measurements derived from the Vision and Values representative of this document?
- Are the performance measurements applied in a representative way?

#### *Tasks/Deliverables:*

- Review previous Vision and Values Statement and provide feedback on the approach to develop the Vision and Values Statement for IRBP (Aug 2020)
- Provide guidance and direction on the DRAFT IBRP Vision and Values Statement (Oct 2020)
- Final Vision and Values Statement (Dec 2020)
- Performance Measures (March 2021)

## **Purpose and Need**<sup>1</sup>

The Purpose and Need Statement describes the transportation problems a program must address. Once finalized, this statement is used throughout program development as a tool to validate, eliminate, or modify ideas based on each ideas' capacity to address the transportation problems identified in the Purpose and Need. The program team will develop an approach, in coordination with the bi-state legislative committee, key partners, and the community, to identify the IBRP Purpose and Need Statement. The program team will solicit feedback, seek guidance and direction from the bi-state legislative committee, and ultimately request endorsement of the developed approach and the final Statement.

*Target date:* Dec 2020

### *Key questions:*

- Since the previous work ended, have the problems been addressed such that they should no longer be included in the Purpose and Need statement?
- Are there new transportation problems in the project area that should be added to the Purpose and Need statement for IBRP?
- Is the draft final Purpose and Need Statement reflective of the problems today and the feedback received through the public process to develop it?

### *Bi-State Legislative Committee Touchpoint:*

- Review previous Purpose and Need and provide feedback on the approach to develop the Purpose and Need Statement for IRBP (Aug 2020)
- Provide guidance and direction on draft iBRP Purpose and Need Statement (Oct 2020)
- Endorse Final Purpose and Need Statement (Dec 2020)

## **Community Engagement Plan**

Extensive, equitable, and inclusive community engagement is critical to identify a solution that reflects community values and can earn broad regional support. A comprehensive community engagement program will be developed and implemented to ensure ongoing, meaningful dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders, including communities within the Interstate Bridge corridor and currently and historically underrepresented and underserved populations. The program team will lead implementation of these efforts with guidance and direction from the bi-state legislative committee and advisory groups.

*Target Date:* Dec 2020

### *Key questions:*

- What qualitative expectations do you have for community engagement on this program?
- Are there unique considerations the community engagement approach should address?

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<sup>1</sup> Purpose and Need Statement is required document as part of the federal NEPA process.

- Does the community engagement approach reflect expectations from legislators, regional leaders, and the community? Are there gaps to address?
- *\*Ongoing:* Does the engagement approach continue to reflect expectations established? Are there barriers to engagement or other adjustment needed in outreach methods, tools, or target

*Bi-State Legislative Committee Touchpoint:*

- Review previous community engagement and provide feedback on the approach to develop a Community Engagement Plan for the IBRP (Aug 2020)
- Provide guidance and direction on community engagement plan (Oct 2020)
- Endorse Final Community Engagement Plan (Dec 2020)

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