



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON
PUBLIC HEALTH



INTERSTATE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT HEALTH ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Version: May 2024

When the state and local government partners sponsoring the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program identified a Modified Locally Preferred Alternative (MLPA) to replace the Interstate 5 bridge between Oregon and Washington states, several partners requested a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). An HIA had previously been conducted in 2008 during the Columbia River Crossing program. In late 2023 the IBR Program contacted public health authorities to request that they prepare an HIA. The Washington State Department of Health, which houses an HIA program, agreed to convene the Oregon Health Authority, Clark County Public Health, and Multnomah County Health Department to develop a feasible approach to assessing the bridge replacement's health impacts.

The health agencies began meeting in January 2024, and, using guidelines from the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessments, concluded that timeline constraints did not allow preparation of a full HIA. The health agencies decided to prepare a Health Analysis of the IBR based heavily on standards and processes for an HIA, incorporating public outreach and previous studies already underway for the IBR Program. Washington Department of Health and Oregon Health Authority are following their respective state policies to offer formal consultation to Native American Tribes for the Health Analysis independent of IBR Program Tribal consultation.

The Health Analysis will cover health outcomes related to **air quality, transportation and active transportation, climate and heat, noise, livability, and water quality**. Each topic will include a brief literature review, describe current health conditions, discuss potential health impacts of the MLPA—including environmental justice and health equity concerns—and evidence-based recommendations for the IBR Program and state and local agencies sponsoring the bridge replacement to take into consideration in constructing the new bridge.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires the IBR Program to submit to the US Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) analyzing environmental and other impacts of the MLPA. That submittal, anticipated in late Summer 2024, will open a public comment period. The collaborating health agencies will submit a final Health Analysis as a public comment to the DSEIS. The IBR Program is required to respond to all public comments.

The Health Analysis will consult with agency, community engagement and advisory groups for the IBR Program. It will also reflect the information and existing interagency partnerships of the individual Washington, Oregon, Clark County, and Multnomah County health agencies.

Goals for the Health Analysis are to:

- Identify health impacts of the IBR Program as detailed by the DSEIS
- Provide and support adoption of evidence-based recommendations to support positive health impacts, reduce health disparities, and mitigate harm
- Leverage existing community engagement and advisory opportunities for Clark County, Multnomah County and the IBR program to incorporate community voice in decision-making
- Incorporate local health data into ongoing efforts to map and address equity and climate priorities for the IBR program.
- Engage public health and tribal partners for future decision-making phases of the IBR program

For more information contact Jessica Marcinkevage at 360-463-7017 or jessica.marcinkevage@doh.wa.gov.