

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE WASHINGTON AND OREGON PARTNER AGENCIES FOR
THE SR-35 COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING STUDY

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between the Washington and Oregon partner agencies concerning the replacement of the Hood River Bridge. Partner agencies include: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, Oregon Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Skamania County, Klickitat County, Hood River County, City of Bingen, City of Hood River, City of White Salmon, Port of Klickitat, and Port of Hood River.

A. PURPOSE:

The participant agencies believe that a new SR-35 Columbia River Bridge can happen by the cooperation among Oregon and Washington local government agencies and state departments of transportation.

The purpose of this MOU is to both recognize the SR-35 Columbia River Crossing Study work as previously completed and to continue to work cooperatively for the replacement of the Hood River Bridge.

B. PREFACE:

The Hood River Bridge was built in 1924 and spans the Columbia River, connecting the cities of White Salmon/Bingen, Washington to Hood River, Oregon. This major transportation route serves as an important link to local communities, the region, and interstate travel. The economic well-being of this region is dependent on this Columbia River crossing.

In 1999, the scoping phase for the SR-35 Columbia River Crossing Feasibility Study was conducted, which identified the key issues and recommended a scope of services for conducting a full feasibility study for the replacement of the Hood River Bridge. By 2004, the SR-35 Columbia River Crossing Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were completed. This work identified a replacement bridge just west of the existing bridge as the preliminary preferred alternative. In 2011, A Type, Size, and Location Study (TS&L) was completed, which furthered engineered bridge elements and recommended a preferred replacement bridge type.

C. PROBLEM:

The existing Hood River Bridge is functionally obsolete. Its deficiencies include: narrow travel lanes, lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, low load carrying capacity, substandard river channel span, and vulnerability to a seismic event. Given these deficiencies, there is a need to continue the process for the long-term replacement of the existing bridge.

D. SCOPE:

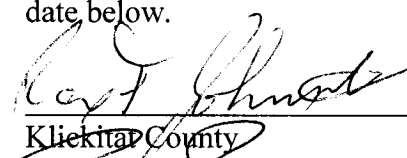
Through this MOU, signature agencies recognize the work that has been completed to date and agree to participate, cooperate, and support the development of a long-term replacement bridge

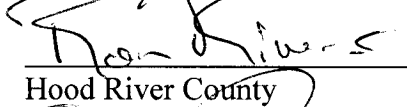
for the Hood River Bridge. This does not constitute any future financial commitment by any agency.

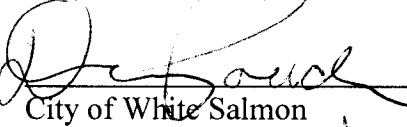
E. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

1. The Hood River Bridge is vital to the region's transportation network and health of the region's economy.
2. The region should continue to plan for the future replacement bridge for the existing Hood River Bridge.
3. The preliminary preferred long-term alternative includes the following:
 - a. An alignment directly adjacent to the west side of the existing bridge. This alternative would connect on the south end to the existing bridge I-84 access road, and on the north end it would intersect with SR-14 immediately west of the existing intersection. The existing bridge would be removed following the construction of the new bridge.
 - b. A concrete segmental box girder fixed span bridge, with two standard travel lanes and shoulders, and a bike/pedestrian facility on the west side of the structure. The structure would also include pedestrian viewing area(s) and adequate river channel span.

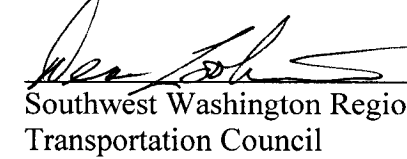
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last written date below.


Klickitat County (Date) 11-8-11

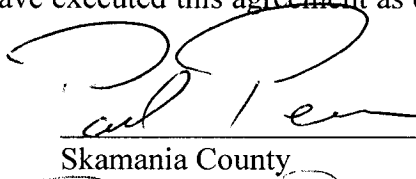

Hood River County (Date) 11-21-11


City of White Salmon (Date) 11/7/11

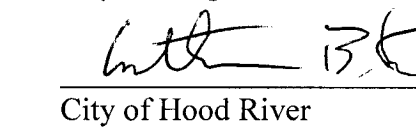

Port of Klickitat (Date) 11-7-2011



Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (Date) 11-2-11

Oregon Department of Transportation (Date)


Skamania County (Date) 12/6/11


City of Bingen (Date) 11/7/11


City of Hood River (Date) 11/18/11


Port of Hood River (Date) 11/9/11

Washington State Department of Transportation (Date)