

EIS UPDATE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

In December 2003, a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was published as part of a bi-state collaborative effort. This draft EIS was the first step in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Currently, the Port of Hood River (Port) is advancing the project to complete the EIS effort and position the project for future funding and construction. A Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) consisting of Mayors and County Commissioners from both Hood River and Klickitat Counties monitors the project and advises the Port on bridge replacement activities.

NEPA Activities:

- Continued work on the Final EIS/Record of Decision and responses to public comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS.
- Completion of Final EIS/ Record of Decision has been moved from the first quarter of 2022 to the third quarter of 2022 to provide time to negotiate mitigation agreements with the four treaty tribes that will be impacted by construction of the proposed bridge.
- Continued meetings with consulting parties to finalize potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge (a historic resource).
- Coordination with agencies continues to complete the Section 106 process.

Other Activities:

- Preliminary Cost Estimate be developed to support ongoing project development and funding.
- The Port of Hood River continue to coordinate funding with federal and state partners.
- The BSWG recently selected Port of Hood River Commissioner Mike Fox and Klickitat County Commissioner Jake Anderson to be co-chairs.
- Extensive live load testing of the existing bridge will result in intermittent single-lane closures through the end of October.

NOVEMEBER 2021 UPDATE



How would bridge replacement benefit the Columbia River Gorge communities?

The Hood River Bridge provides a critical connection for residents and visitors to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. One of only three bridges spanning the Columbia in this region, the bridge is a critical rural freight network facility for agriculture, forestry, heavy industry and high-tech companies with freight originating throughout the northwest. The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels. The bridge has no sidewalks or bicycle lanes for non-motorized travel and would likely not withstand a large earthquake.

If project funding is secured, the new bridge would provide a safe and reliable way for everyone to cross or navigate the Columbia River—by car, truck, bus, bicycle, on foot, or on the water. A new bridge would support a thriving economy and livable communities.



To learn more about the project, please visit us at: www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge

PROJECT CONTACT

Kevin Greenwood, Project Director

541-436-0797

@ kgreenwood@portofhoodriver.com