



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

MAY 2021 UPDATE



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.

What's new on the project?

- Continue preparing responses to public comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS and developing the combined Final EIS/Record of Decision.
- Received concurrence from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on effects to historic resources.
- Completed underwater remote sensing surveys to gather additional data to support environmental compliance efforts and future geotechnical and design activities.
- Continued efforts to reach out to Native American tribal members who utilize fishing access sites and fish on the river, including recent presentation to the Yakama Nation's quarterly fishers meeting.

What are the next steps?

- Final EIS/Record of Decision is underway and is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2021.
- Continue coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on completion of the Endangered Species Act consultation.
- Complete and submit the revised draft cultural resources survey and draft archaeological testing reports to the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and tribes for review and comment.
- Continue discussions with the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and other parties and tribes to identify potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge.
- Continue consultation with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and other identified interests.
- Prepare to conduct geotechnical investigation in Summer of 2021.

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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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.

WE ARE HERE ▼

Agency/Stakeholder Outreach		Environmental Compliance									
Technical Study Updates				Supplemental Draft EIS						Final EIS/ROD	
Community Meeting		Community Meeting									
Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2018		2019				2020				2021	

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