



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

OCTOBER 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.

### 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 expected in the first quarter of 2022.
- Updated archaeological and cultural resources reports to respond to agency comments. This is in support of compliance efforts for the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Continued meetings with consulting parties to finalize potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge (a historic resource).
- Finalizing mitigation commitments for a variety of resources.

### Other Activities:

- Proposed legislation to create a Washington bridge authority presented to Joint Transportation Committee.
- Port has commissioned a Preliminary Cost Estimate from WSP based upon 5% design.
- Staff is developing procurement documents to select an Owner's Rep/ Management firm to guide the project.
- The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) continues to monitor and advise the Port of Hood River on bridge replacement activities. The BSWG consists of Mayors and County Commissioners from both Hood River and Klickitat Counties.
- Maintenance on the existing bridge during October includes night work for switch replacements and shim installations on northside of bridge and daytime work to replace columns on the toll plaza.

### 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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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	Q3   Q4	Q1   Q2	Q3   Q4	Q1   Q2	Q3   Q4	Q1	Q2		
2018	2019				2020				2021				2022	

To learn more about the project, please visit us at:  
[www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge](http://www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge)

### PROJECT CONTACT

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