



# Bridge Replacement Project

## Project update

The Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge is a vital transportation link connecting Hood River, Oregon with the communities of White Salmon and Bingen in Washington. Since 2003, the Port of Hood River (POHR) has been working to advance the replacement of the bridge. Currently, the Port is advancing the design of the replacement bridge, completing environmental review and pursuing funding for design 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.

## Current project activities:

- On October 14, over 30 legislators from Oregon and Washington met with the BSWG and the POHR to discuss the critical need for a replacement bridge on an accelerated timeline and pathways to secure state funding.
- On December 6-8, members of the BSWG will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with the Build America Bureau to discuss Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans and with the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to discuss current and future grant opportunities.
- POHR and Klickitat County jointly applied for three grants of \$195 million (INFRA, MEGA, and RURAL) under the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant within USDOT. The project was not awarded the INFRA grant, but the applications under MEGA and RURAL are still pending.
- POHR and Klickitat County also applied for an additional \$100M grant under the Bridge Investment Program (BIP), also under USDOT. The application is pending.
- Preliminary work for the geotechnical services continues; geotechnical services are expected to begin in early 2023.
- The project is advancing preliminary engineering, data collection, and criteria development in preparation for a procurement of the final designer and final contractor in late 2023.



Design rendering of new bridge

## How will the new bridge 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 River in this region, the bridge is a critical to the rural freight network for agriculture, forestry, heavy industry, and high-tech companies.

When project funding is secured, the new bridge will 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.

The new bridge design will address problems with river navigation, vehicle travel, pedestrian/bicycle connections, and safety to support a thriving economy and livable communities.

