



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

### DECEMBER 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. 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:

- FHWA/ODOT/Port have met to start developing tribal compensatory agreements (CAs) due to impacts to treaty fishing activities during construction. The Final EIS/Record of Decision will be delayed until completion of the CAs.
- Continued meetings with consulting parties to finalize mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge (a historic resource).

### Other Activities:

- The Owners Representative/Project Management Request for Proposals is under review by ODOT for DOT/FHWA compliance.
- WSP is updating the comprehensive Preliminary Cost Estimate (PCE) for the project with input from Steve Siegel on programming costs. Deliverables are expected at the end of November.
- A grant reimbursement agreement from WSDOT is expected in November. A budget exhibit is being prepared by the Port.
- FHWA continues to review BUILD materials submitted by the Port in September.
- ODOT is negotiating terms for American Rescue Plan Act funds with a final agreement expected by mid-2022.
- Meetings held with the Oregon Legislative Counsel (LC) to review bi-state bridge authority creation language on request of the co-Chairs of the Joint Transportation Committee. LC report to co-Chairs is due Nov. 17.
- Klickitat County members of the Bi-State Working Group have been conducting one-on-one meetings with key Washington state legislators to advocate on behalf of bi-state bridge authority legislation. Senator Curtis King (Yakima) will be sponsoring the bill.

### 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
	2018		2019		2020				2021				2022				

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

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