



# BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

## JULY 2022 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 (Port) has been working to advance the replacement of this bridge that was originally constructed in 1924. 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:

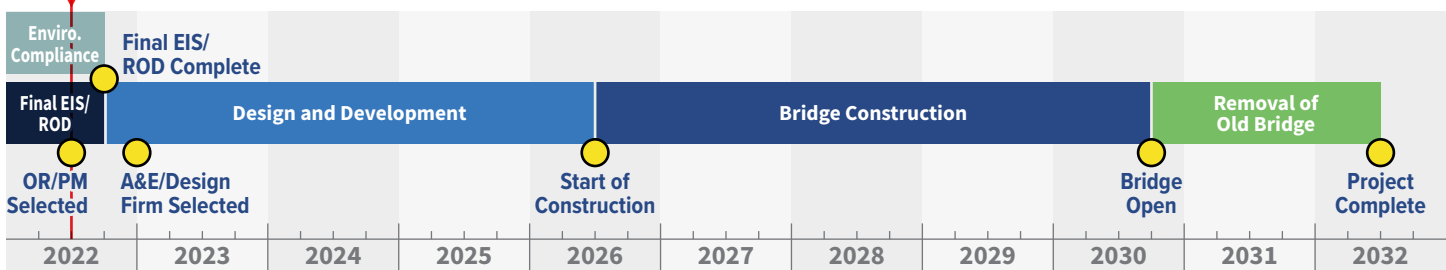
- Work continues on tasks necessary to finalize the National Environmental Policy Act review. Current activities include:
  - Reaching agreement on tribal compensatory agreements for impacts to treaty fishing activities during construction.
  - Awaiting NOAA Fisheries completion of the Endangered Species Act consultation.
  - Finalizing Section 106 process including meeting with consulting parties and completion of the mitigation agreement for impacts to the historic bridge.
  - Completion of the Final EIS and Record of Decision.
- Owners Representative/Project Management contract currently under negotiation.
- Members of the BSWG are traveling to Washington D.C. to meet with key legislators and agency managers to bring attention to the project's \$195M INFRA grant application.
- Port of Hood River Commission adopted a new stand-alone Replacement Fund to serve as defacto project fund to eventually be transferred to the new Mid-Columbia Bridge Authority.
- BSWG sub-committee developing draft of Commission Formation Agreement (CFA) required as part of the creation of the Bridge Authority. Final CFAs will be distributed to local government boards for adoption by the end of the year.
- SW Washington RTC and Klickitat County re-applying for WSDOT Critical Rural Freight Corridor designation for the replacement bridge. In 2017, the designation was identified and is renewed every five years.
- Project Team presented to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Commission in late June.

### 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



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

### PROJECT CONTACT

Kevin Greenwood, Project Director  
☎ 541-436-0797  
@ kgreenwood@portofhoodriver.com