



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

### FEBRUARY 2022 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:

Work continues on tasks necessary to finalize the EIS and prepare a Record of Decision. This includes:

- Tribal compensatory agreements (CAs) for to impacts to treaty fishing activities during construction.
- Completion of the Endangered Species Act consultation.
- Finalizing Section 106 process including completion of the mitigation agreement for impacts to the historic bridge.

### Other Activities:

- Bridge Authority Legislation has been introduced in both states allowing local border governments to form bi-state bridge authorities.
- The grant agreement between the Port and Washington State for the use of \$5M for project management and engineering should be completed this month.
- Staff continues to complete the procurement documents for hiring a project management firm to provide professional technical direction for the project.
- Local elected officials working with state legislatures to determine federal infrastructure funding availability for bridge replacement.
- Following a bridge de-rating to 32 tons last year, the Port is completing an engineering study to determine the feasibility of repairs to remove restrictions.
- Bids to be received for approach ramps and lift cable repairs this quarter.

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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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