



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

### MARCH 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 for to impacts to treaty fishing activities during construction.
- 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.

### Other Activities:

- Bridge Authority Legislation Update: Oregon House Bill 4089 passes full House and Washington Senate Bill 5558 passes full Senate.
- Project Management procurement for next phase of project continues to be reviewed by the state.
- Opportunity to advocate on behalf of project with Oregon Transportation Commission on Feb. 17th.
- Grant agreement with Washington state complete; allows project to continue.
- Bridge Weight Limit analysis to be reviewed by Port this month; options considered for possible plan to remove weight limits.
- Wire rope replacement and approach ramp repairs also being scheduled for contract this summer.

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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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