



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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.

NEPA Activities:

- Continued work on the Final EIS/Record of Decision and responses to public comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS. Completion of Final EIS/Record of Decision expected by Fall 2021.
- Finalization of Section 4(f) property determinations and gaining concurrence from officials with jurisdiction.
- Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Washington State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) review of archaeological reports is ongoing.
- Conduct a consulting parties meeting to identify potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge.
- Continue consultation with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and other interests.

Other Activities:

- First draft of Washington governance report for bi-state bridge authority being reviewed by local governments.
- The Project received a boost on June 25th when the Port received \$5-million from the Oregon legislature through the American Rescue Plan Act. A total of \$15-million has now been appropriated for Post-NEPA engineering and governance work.
- Special thanks to our legislators representing Hood River and Klickitat Counties in advocating for the project.
- Continued advocacy at federal level for infrastructure funding.
- A New webpage has been established at <https://portofhoodriver.com/bridge/bridge-replacement-bi-state-working-group-bswg/> for tracking Bi-State Working Group activities.

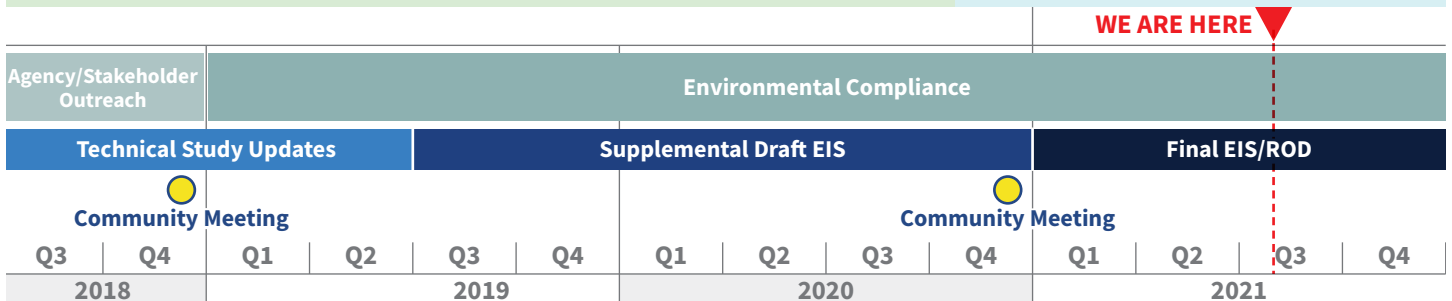
AUGUST 2021 UPDATE



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.



To learn more about the project, please visit us at:
www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge

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