



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

OCTOBER 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.

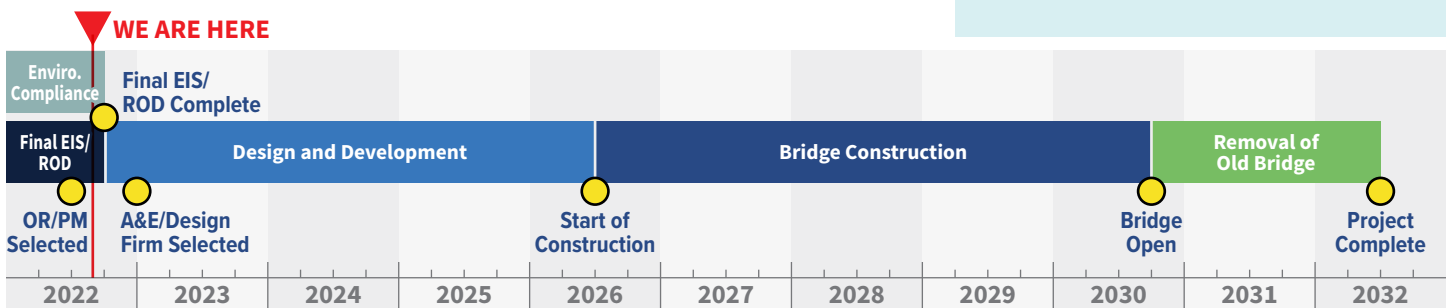
Current Project Activities:

- Work continues on tasks necessary to finalize the National Environmental Policy Act review including consultation with NOAA Fisheries under the Endangered Species Act and completion of mitigation agreement for impacts to the historic bridge.
- Application being developed for federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning Grant to support costs for bike and pedestrian elements.
- Bi-annual bridge inspection report shows a Sufficiency Rating of 6.0 out of 100. This a reduction from 2020 and indicates the bridge is in poor condition for structural adequacy and serviceability.
- Commission Formation Agreements (CFAs) are currently in second draft. CFAs are a required for the creation of the new Mid-Columbia Bridge Authority.
- Federal field representatives tour in July was successful in demonstrating need for bridge replacement; a similar tour for Washington and Oregon state legislators will take place in October.
- Bridge closure video, available on Port of Hood River social media, demonstrated the traffic implications of a long-term bridge closure.
- Geotechnical contract is being developed for in-water borings to provide information for bridge foundation design.

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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