



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.

What's new on the project?

- The Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project Supplemental Draft EIS was published on November 20, 2020 and comments were received through January 4, 2021.
- A total of 155 comment submittals were received, resulting in an estimated 400 to 500 individual comments. The project team is reviewing each comment and preparing responses.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a letter concluding Endangered Species Act consultation for Bull Trout indicating that the project would not have an impact on the species or designated critical habitat.
- Analysis of artifacts found during archaeological field work completed on specific parcels on the Washington side is ongoing and will be documented in a draft report.
- The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Washington State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) are completing a final review of the Historic Resources Technical Report.

What are the next steps?

- Continue to review and develop responses to the comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS. Completing the Final EIS begins following the close of the comment period and is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2021.
- Conduct EIS Working Group meeting to discuss remaining steps to complete the NEPA process.
- Coordinate with NMFS on completion of the Endangered Species Act consultation.
- Continue discussions with the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and other parties and tribes to identify potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge.
- Continued consultation with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and other identified interests.
- Prepare to conduct geotechnical investigation in Spring of 2021.

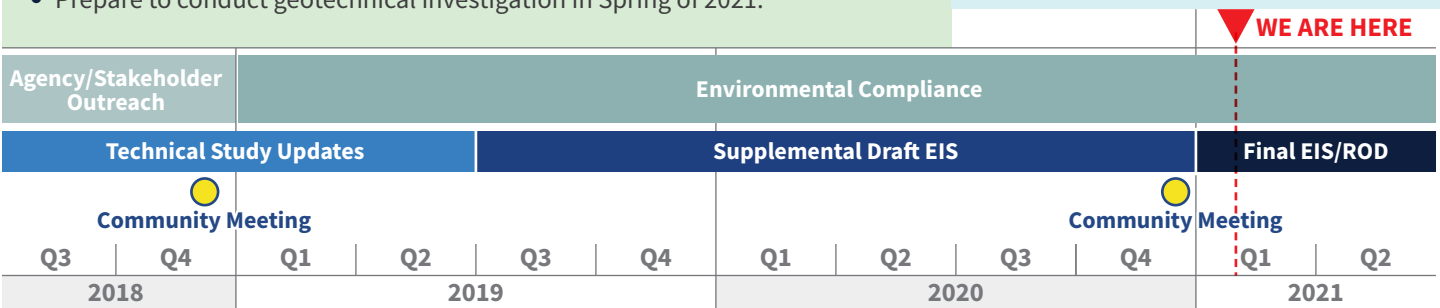
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How would bridge replacement benefit the Columbia River Gorge communities?

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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