



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**JUNE 2021 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.

### NEPA Activities:

- Preliminary drafts of the Final EIS/Record of Decision and responses to public comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS provided to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) for review. Completion of Final EIS/Record of Decision expected by Fall 2021.
- Completed and submitted the cultural resources survey and archaeological testing reports to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Washington State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and tribes for review and comment.
- Continued discussions with the SHPO, DAHP, and other parties and tribes 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 identified interests.

### Other Activities:

- The Washington state legislature appropriated \$5-million for additional engineering and planning efforts and the Oregon legislature has a request for an equal amount. The project also received a \$5-million federal BUILD grant in September. Together the funding will produce engineering, governance structure and traffic studies necessary to continue through to the construction phase.
- The Port, ODOT, WSDOT, FHWA and Klickitat County will be meeting to coordinate the procurement for numerous contracts as funding comes from various agencies.
- The Bi State Working Group will be establishing strategy principles for the project as well as receiving an introductory finance plan that will ultimately be used as a component for toll establishment.
- Washington legislature has appropriated \$50,000 for studying a Bi-state Bridge Compact concept for the future ownership and financing of the replacement bridge.
- Preparations underway for geotechnical investigations planned for Summer 2021.

### 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
	2018		2019				2020				2021	

To learn more about the project, please visit us at:  
[www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge](http://www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge)

### PROJECT CONTACT

Kevin Greenwood, Project Director  
 ☎ 541-436-0797  
 @ kgreenwood@portofhoodriver.com