



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2018

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?

- Continued coordination with the US Coast Guard and US Army Corps of Engineers; prepared materials to initiate engagement with these federal agencies in early bridge design assumptions.
- Began planning for the first public open house.
- Documented the methodology for traffic analysis and coordinated review by various agencies.
- Held the first Working Group meeting on November 8. The Working Group will provide guidance and input to the project team on the analysis and recommendations for the EIS.
- Met with Oregon Department and Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to define a strategy for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### What are the next steps?

- Initiate Section 408 review process with the US Army Corps of Engineers, which is a required authorization needed whenever a new bridge is built in a federal navigation channel.
- Hold first public open house in December.
- Conduct updated traffic analysis on the existing and future baseline conditions, which is a requirement for the EIS impact analysis
- Begin a re-evaluation of the technical work documented in the 2003 draft EIS to determine the level of analysis that needs to be conducted as the project moves forward.
- Continue collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies as well as the member tribes of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

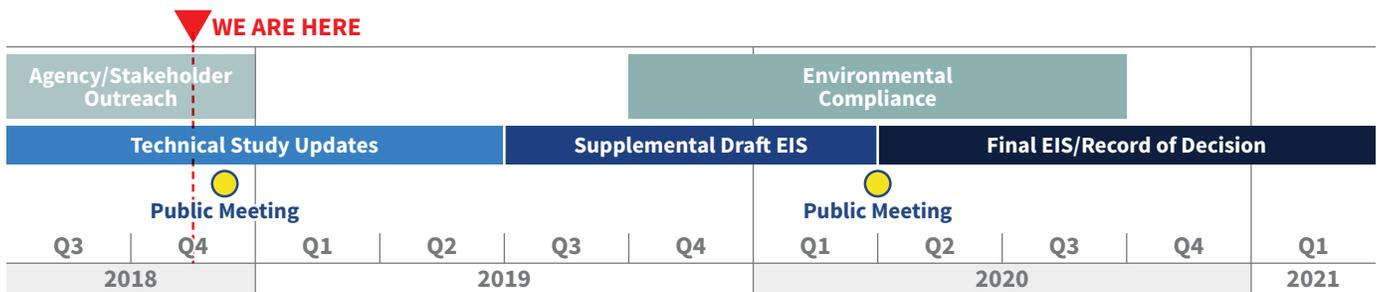


Photo: Sam Beebe

### 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](http://www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge)

### PROJECT CONTACT

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