



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

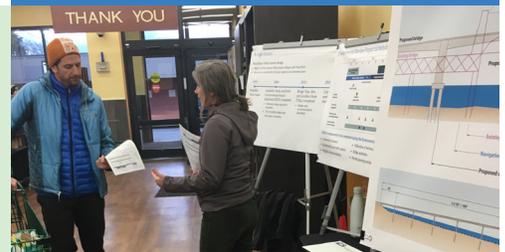
In December 2003, a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was published as part of a bi-state collaborative effort. This draft EIS was the first step in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Currently, the Port of Hood River (Port) is advancing the project to complete the EIS effort and position the project for future funding and construction.

What's new on the project?

- Continued public outreach with information tables at events in Hood River and White Salmon, outreach to the Latino community, and the online survey.
- Coordinated with ODOT to engage Native American tribes in the project.
- Held a kickoff meeting with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to engage WSDOT as a project partner.
- Met with Gorge Commission staff to discuss the framework and requirements for a National Scenic Area permit for the project.
- Completed the re-evaluation of the technical work documented in the 2003 Draft EIS to help determine the level of analysis that needs to be conducted.
- Continued traffic analysis for the existing 2017 conditions to support the environmental analysis.
- Began evaluating data for the navigation impact report to understand height and width requirements that will be factored into the new bridge design.

What are the next steps?

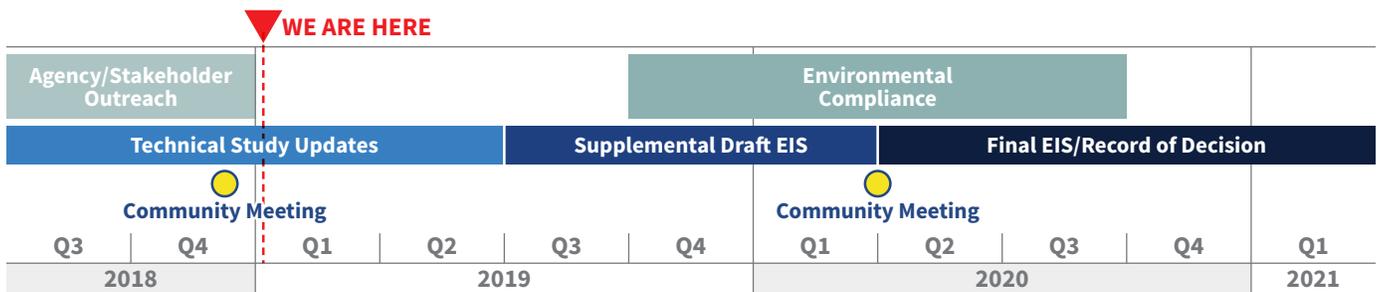
- Prepare a summary report of public comments received through the open house, online survey, and other outreach efforts.
- Meet with the Federal Highway Administration to confirm the NEPA compliance strategy and documentation requirements.
- Kickoff technical analysis for the project's environmental evaluation.
- Begin work on the future 2045 traffic conditions analysis, which will serve as a baseline to evaluate the benefits and impacts to traffic operations associated with the new bridge.
- Conduct a survey with commercial, recreational, and government river users to inform the navigation impact report.



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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