



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

MARCH 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?

- Confirmed the NEPA strategy with the Federal Highway Administration, which will include preparing a Supplement Draft EIS that provides updated technical analyses and then a combined Final EIS/Record of Decision.
- Prepared a re-evaluation of the 2003 Draft EIS to determine which elements of the past environmental analysis is still valid and which elements require updates.
- Completed the traffic analysis for the future 2045 conditions to support the environmental impacts analysis of replacing the bridge.
- Initiating a navigation survey with commercial, recreational, and government river users. This survey will inform the US Coast Guard's preliminary determination on the new bridge's navigation clearance.
- Holding meeting #2 with the project's Working Group to provide an update on NEPA strategy, discuss traffic analysis results, and summarize the multi-pronged community outreach efforts and input.

What are the next steps?

- Coordinate with tribes and federal, state and local agencies to formalize their participation in the project's NEPA process.
- Document the methodology that will be applied to the environmental impacts analysis for the EIS.
- Conduct land and bathymetric surveys (weather permitting) to support the new bridge design.
- Begin refining the design for the roadway approaches to the new bridge.
- Present the project at the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee.

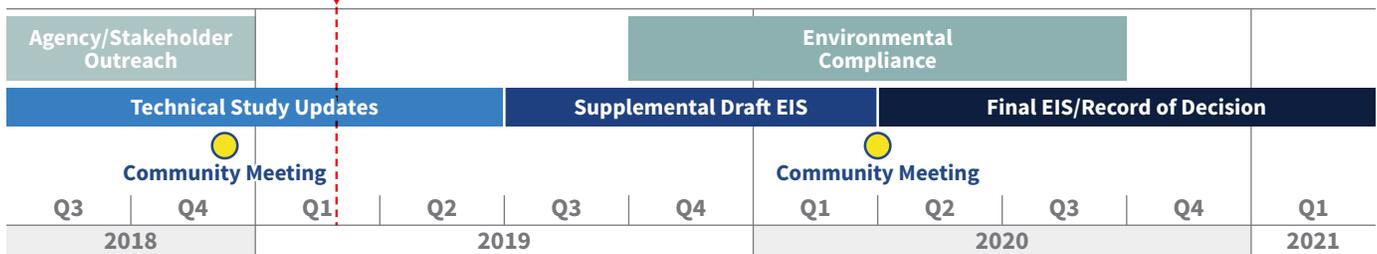


How would bridge replacement benefit the Columbia River Gorge communities?

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



To learn more about the project, please visit us at:

www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge

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