



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

APRIL 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 collecting data through a navigation survey with river users.
- Presented to the Lower Columbia River Harbor Safety Committee.
- Held a second Working Group meeting to provide an update on NEPA strategy, traffic analysis results, and community outreach efforts and input.
- Documented the methodology that will be applied to the environmental impacts analysis for the EIS.
- Sending letters to tribes and federal, state and local agencies to formalize their participation in the project's NEPA process.
- Coordinating with the Gorge Commission and other agencies to assess visual changes that would result from a new bridge.
- On-going design refinement of the roadway approaches to the bridge and stormwater treatment concepts.

What are the next steps?

- Circulate environmental methodology memo to tribes and agencies participating in the NEPA process.
- Coordinate with state historic preservation offices and tribes to identify the area be studied for historic and archaeological resources.
- Conduct aerial and bathymetric surveys (weather permitting) to support the new bridge design.
- Arrange meetings with tribes.
- Prepare the Navigation Impact Report.
- Set the preliminary project design to be used for the environmental technical analysis.

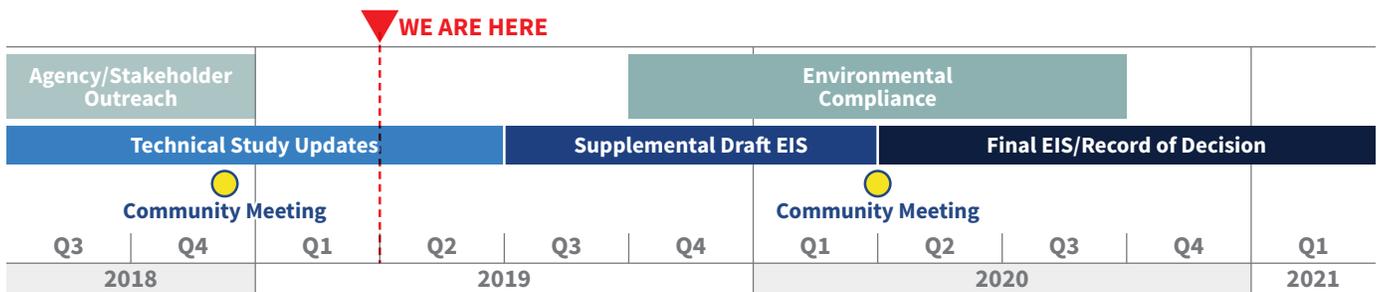
River User Navigation Survey open through March 30:

<http://bit.ly/ColumbiaNav>

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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