



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

MAY 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 survey with river users, and began preparing the navigation impact report requested by the US Coast Guard to make a preliminary determination on the navigation clearance for the new bridge.
- Conducted aerial and bathymetric surveys to develop base maps and data for the new bridge engineering effort.
- Met with the Gorge Commission and Hood River County to discuss future National Scenic Area permitting considerations for a new bridge that should be addressed in the EIS.
- Coordinating with the Oregon and Washington State Departments of Transportation (ODOT and WSDOT) on the conceptual design for the bridge approach roadways.
- Advancing the transportation technical report to gather review comments from ODOT and WSDOT.
- Obtaining reviews and comments on the environmental methodology memo from tribes and agencies participating in the NEPA process.
- Preparing the environmental technical reports.

What are the next steps?

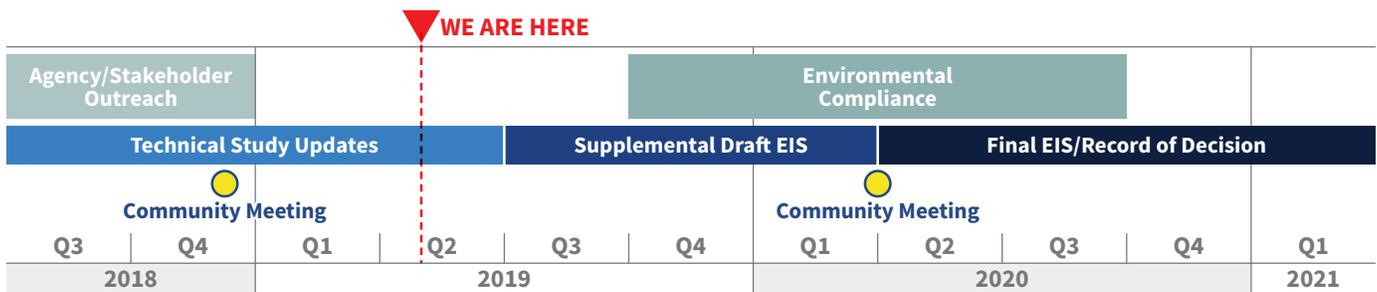
- Prepare the navigation impact report and continue coordination with the US Coast Guard and US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Arrange a work session with the Gorge Commission, Hood River County and the US Forest Service to discuss aesthetic concepts for the new bridge.
- Initiate government-to-government consultation with federally recognized tribes and arrange individual meetings with tribal leadership and/or staff.
- Coordinate with state historic preservation offices and tribes to identify the area be studied for historic and archaeological resources.
- Hold the third Working Group meeting to review technical work and get an update on interagency coordination efforts.
- Prepare environmental technical reports for ODOT and WSDOT review.



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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