



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**JULY 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?

- Finalizing the transportation technical report.
- Finalizing environmental methodology memo to address comments from tribes and agencies participating in the NEPA process.
- Submitting environmental technical reports for Port, ODOT, and WSDOT review and addressing review comments.
- Preparing a biological assessment to evaluate the potential effects of the project on listed and proposed species and critical habitat in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
- Coordinating with tribes and the State Historic Preservation Offices on the project's area of potential effect to be studied for the project; holding meetings with the tribes.
- Developing a range of architectural concepts for the replacement bridge.
- Preparing photo simulations of what the replacement bridge would look like.
- Submitting the navigation impact report to the US Coast Guard for review.
- Completing a bridge hydraulics study.

### What are the next steps?

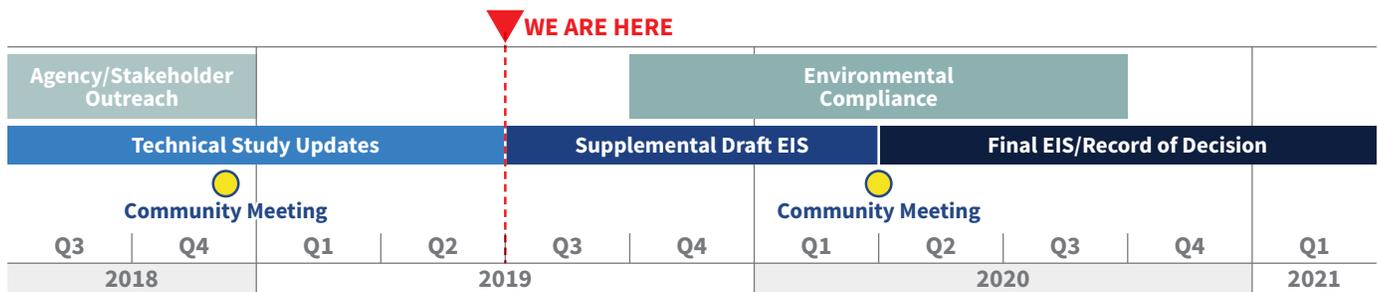
- Continue addressing review comments on environmental technical reports and submit reports to FHWA for review
- Continue preparing the biological assessment, including conducting fieldwork.
- Submit draft photo simulations to ODOT and the Port for review.
- Begin preparing the Supplemental Draft EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation.
- Finalize the navigation impact report to address US Coast Guard comments.



### 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)

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