



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

AUGUST 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?

- Completed five environmental technical reports; remaining ten technical reports are being drafted and reviewed by the Port, ODOT, WSDOT, and FHWA.
- Conducted natural resource surveys for the draft biological assessment.
- Initiated consultation with seven Native American tribes, and distributed the cultural resources area of potential effect and methodology memoranda for analyzing impacts to all environmental resources for the tribes' review.
- Completed draft photo simulations of what the replacement bridge would look like and draft architectural concepts for Port and ODOT review.
- Advanced the Administrative Draft #1 of the Supplemental Draft EIS.
- Submitted permit applications for in-water geotechnical investigations.

What are the next steps?

- Hold EIS Working Group #4 meeting and community outreach meetings in September to provide a progress update and invite input on conceptual design of the roadway connections to the bridge; visualizations of the replacement bridge; and preliminary environmental impacts.
- Advance remaining environmental technical reports and the biological assessment.
- Begin preparing for cultural resources field investigations.
- Complete Administrative Draft #1 of the Supplemental Draft EIS for technical review by the Port and ODOT.
- Finalize the navigation impact report to address comments from the US Coast Guard.



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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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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