



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 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?

- Holding the EIS Working Group #4 meeting and the community outreach meetings in September to provide a progress update and invite input on conceptual design of the roadway connections to the bridge; pedestrian and bicycle facilities; and visualizations of the replacement bridge. **Check project website for dates and locations!**
- Finalizing 13 of the 15 environmental technical reports; remaining two technical reports are in review by the Port, ODOT, WSDOT, and FHWA or in the fieldwork stage.
- Initiating consultation with seven Native American tribes; conducting cultural resources field surveys.
- Finalizing photo simulations of what the replacement bridge would look like and architectural sketch concepts.
- Advancing the Supplemental Draft EIS through internal technical reviews.
- Obtaining permits for in-water geotechnical investigations scheduled this fall.

What are the next steps?

- Advancing the Supplemental Draft EIS for internal policy compliance.
- Finalizing the biological assessment that evaluates impacts to threatened and endangered species.
- Summarizing results of the cultural resources surveys; continue to consult with Native American tribes.
- Finalizing 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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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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