



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

JULY 2020

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?

- Advancing the draft Supplemental Draft EIS with updated historic, cultural, tribal, and biological information gained during the past few months.
- Submitting an archaeological fieldwork plan to Native American tribes for additional investigations that supplement the work conducted in Fall 2019. The tribes have a 30-day review period, and then the archaeological survey will be conducted.
- Preparing a revised biological assessment for technical review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and liaisons to the National Marine Fisheries Service. The biological assessment documents Project impacts to threatened and endangered species and habitat and associated proposed conservation measures.
- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, consultations with the Native American tribes are on hold.

What are the next steps?

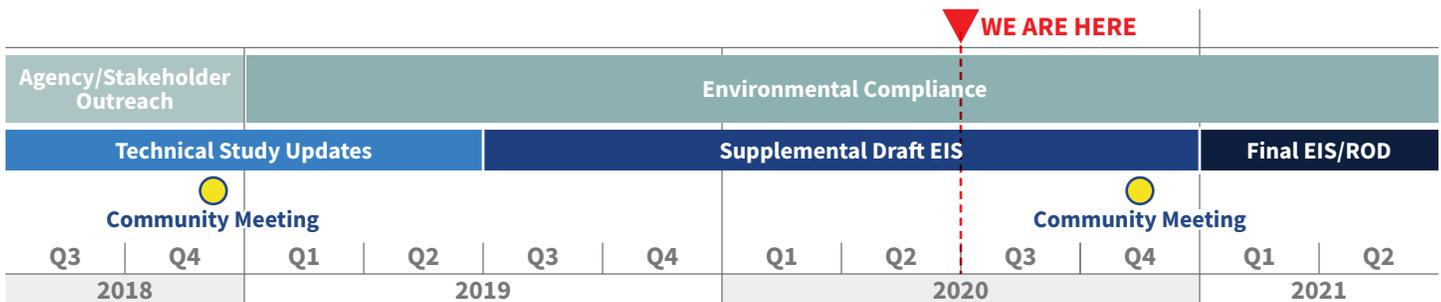
- Complete an internal review of revised draft Supplemental Draft EIS by ODOT and FHWA.
- Conduct additional archaeological investigations in areas where more information is needed.
- Complete the analysis of the historic properties within the project area and begin preparing the Historic Resources Technical Report.
- Consult with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and any other interests identified by the tribes that relate to the Project.
- Prepare a photo simulation with a view from the Washington shoreline toward the Hood River Bridge.



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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