



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

AUGUST 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?

- An administrative draft of the Supplemental Draft EIS is under review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Oregon Department of Justice.
- Revising the archaeological fieldwork plan to address agency and tribal review comments; expecting to conduct the archaeological testing in late July.
- Completing the analysis of the historic properties within the project area and preparing the Historic Resources Technical Report.
- Preparing a final biological assessment to address comment received from the 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.
- Preparing a photo simulation of a view from the Washington shoreline toward the Hood River Bridge.

What are the next steps?

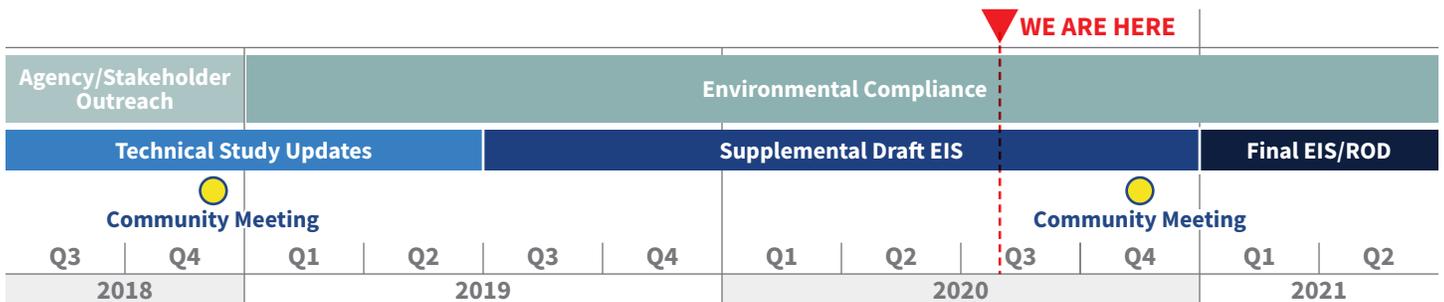
- Revise the administrative draft of the Supplemental Draft EIS to address comments and prepare an updated version for FHWA legal sufficiency review.
- Consult with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and any other interests identified by the tribes that relate to the Project.
- Complete any needed lab analysis from the archaeological fieldwork and begin preparing an Archaeological Technical Report.
- Begin preparing for an EIS Working Group meeting to brief the members on the status of the Supplemental Draft EIS and public involvement outreach proposed in Fall 2020.



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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