



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

OCTOBER 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 being reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Project's cooperating agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Coast Guard, and Washington State Department of Transportation. A "cooperating agency" is any federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. A state or local agency or a Native American tribe may also become a cooperating agency.
- Submitting the draft Historic Resources Technical Report for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) review.
- Submitting the biological assessment to the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate consultation on Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
- Holding an EIS Working Group meeting to brief members on the status of the Supplemental Draft EIS and community engagement planned later in the Fall.

### What are the next steps?

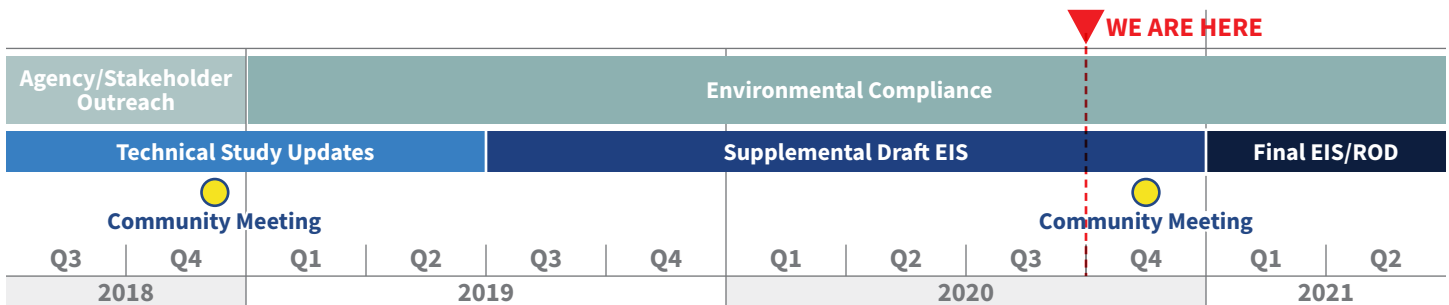
- Finalize the Supplemental Draft EIS by addressing comments from the FHWA legal sufficiency and cooperating agencies' reviews.
- Begin preparing for the community engagement activities and public hearing associated with releasing the Supplemental Draft EIS for public review.
- Address any questions or requests for information from the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during their review of the biological assessment.
- Finalize the Cultural Resources Survey Report for review by the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and Native American tribes.
- Consult with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and other identified interests.



### 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)

### PROJECT CONTACT

Kevin Greenwood, Project Director

☎ 541-436-0797

@ kgreenwood@portofhoodriver.com