



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

NOVEMBER 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?

- The final revisions are underway on the Supplemental Draft EIS to address comments by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Project's cooperating agencies. The Supplemental Draft EIS is expected to be released for public review in mid-November. Separate notifications will be broadcast by the Port to announce its availability for public review.
- Designing an online community meeting/public hearing to coincide with the Supplemental Draft EIS publication. Please check the [project website](#) for more details on the online meeting and opportunities to submit comments.
- Initiated Endangered Species Act consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- Prepared the draft Cultural Resources Survey Report for review by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and Native American tribes.

### What are the next steps?

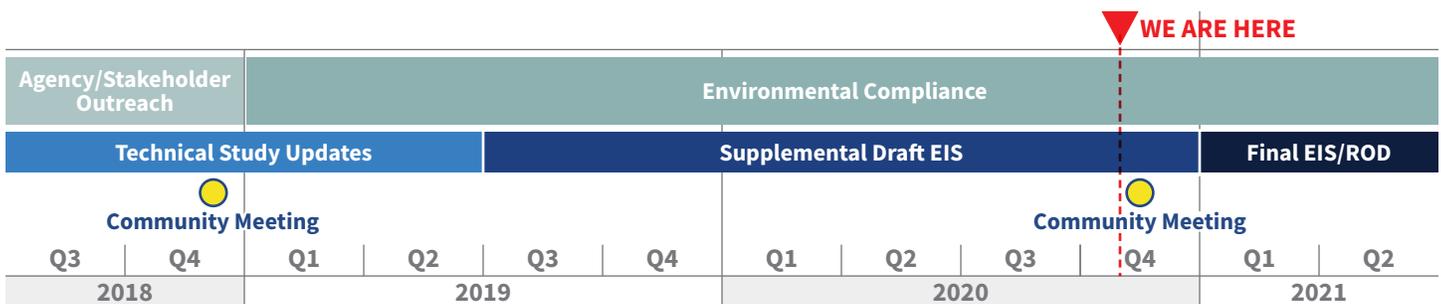
- Publish the Supplemental Draft EIS and begin 45-day public comment period.
- Announce details of the online community meeting/public hearing and multiple options for submitting comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS.
- Address any questions or requests for information from NMFS and USFWS during their review of the biological assessment.
- Address any comments from the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and Native American tribes on the Cultural Resources Survey Report and complete follow-up cultural resources fieldwork.
- Initiate discussions with the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and other parties and tribes to identify potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge.
- 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

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