



# EIS UPDATE

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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 Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project Supplemental Draft EIS was published on November 20, 2020. Public comments will be accepted through January 4, 2021.
- Public hearing on the Supplemental Draft EIS was conducted on December 3, 2020. Please visit the project website to view a recording of the hearing, view the EIS or to provide comments.
- Additional archaeological field work completed on specific parcels on the Washington side and results will be documented in a draft report.
- Continue discussions with Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and other parties and tribes to develop mitigation measures for removal of the historic Hood River Bridge.

### What are the next steps?

- Review and log comments made on the Supplemental Draft EIS. Comments received will be reviewed and responded to in the Final EIS. Completing the Final EIS begins following the close of the comment period and is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2021.
- Coordinate with NMFS and USFWS on completion of the Endangered Species Act consultation.
- Continue discussions with the Oregon SHPO, Washington State DAHP, and other parties and tribes to identify potential mitigation measures for removal of the existing bridge.
- Continued consultation with Native American tribes on cultural resources, access to the Columbia River, fishing activities, treaty rights, and other identified interests.
- Prepare to conduct geotechnical investigation in Spring of 2021.

### JANUARY 2021



EXISTING



PROPOSED

### 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.

**WE ARE HERE**

Agency/Stakeholder Outreach		Environmental Compliance													
Technical Study Updates				Supplemental Draft EIS								Final EIS/ROD			
Community Meeting				Community Meeting											
Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2018				2019				2020				2021			

To learn more about the project, please visit us at:  
[www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge](http://www.portofhoodriver.com/bridge)

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