



EIS UPDATE

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

MARCH 2021 UPDATE



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?

- Hold an EIS Working Group meeting on March 4 to discuss remaining steps to complete the NEPA process.
- Continue preparing responses to public comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS; all responses will be published in the Final EIS.
- Planning for the Final EIS is ongoing.
- Analysis of artifacts found during archaeological field work completed on specific parcels on the Washington side is ongoing and will be documented in a draft report.
- Additional photography of historic properties is underway to document potential impacts from the project.

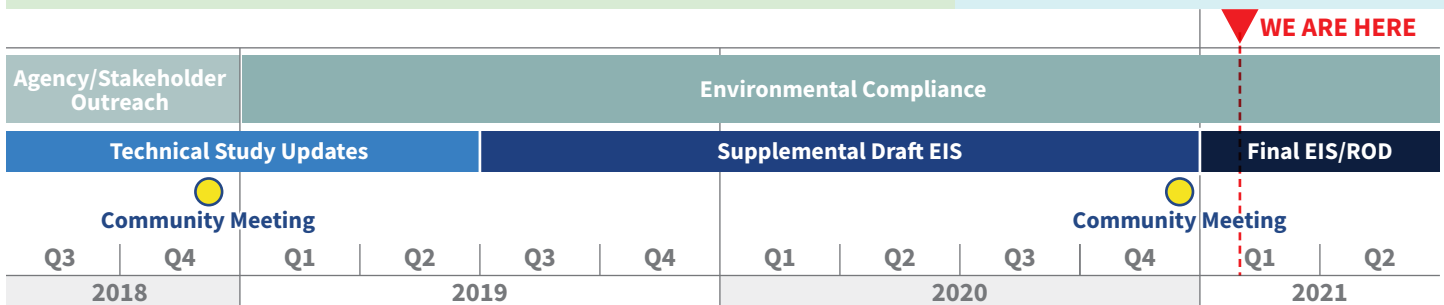
What are the next steps?

- Final EIS/Record of Decision is underway and is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2021.
- Continued coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 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.

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 The existing bridge is nearing the end of its serviceable life and is obsolete for modern vehicles with height, width, and weight restrictions and is also a navigational hazard for marine freight vessels.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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