



## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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### Bi-State Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 | 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
Port of Hood River – via Zoom  
1000 E Port Marina Drive, Hood River OR 97031

#### In Attendance:

**Committee:** Betty Barnes (Mayor), City of Bingen; John Everitt (President), Port of Hood River; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; Kate McBride (Mayor), City of Hood River; Jacob Anderson (Commissioner), Klickitat County; Kristi Chapman (Commissioner), Port of Hood River - alternate; Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County – alternate

**Consultants:** Steve Siegel, Siegel Consulting; Miles Pengilly, Thorn Run Partners

**Members of the Public:** Sen. Curtis King

**Staff:** Kevin Greenwood (Project Director), Port of Hood River; Michael McElwee (Executive Director), Port of Hood River

#### Legislative Update

Senator King provided a brief update. The \$5 million fund was approved to give to Klickitat County to use for phase 2 on the Hood River – White Salmon Bridge. The transportation package has been put on hold. Sen. King does not believe there will be a package this year.

Comm. Anderson asked if it would help reach 30% design. Sen. King said yes and added that it would make it easier to justify why funds are needed in the new package.

Greenwood requested an update on the \$50,000 fund for the governance work. Sen. King replied that the transportation committee is working on a study regarding the elements that are needed to establish that authority. The \$50,000 will go to legislative staff, not the Port of Hood River.

Betty Barnes asked Sen. King to share what was discussed earlier in the year regarding P3s. Sen. King commented that in the Washington legislature, P3s are not looked upon with much favor. Sen. King believes it would be a tough sell if this route were chosen.

Miles Pengilly provided an update on the \$5 million contribution from Oregon. Oregon's legislative session does not end until June 27<sup>th</sup>. The June revenue forecast will provide a reliable picture of the state's resources and finances. Pengilly also noted that Oregon will be pursuing a bill that will be drafted once the session ends for the Bi-State Bridge Compact.

Greenwood reported on the federal efforts for the Fast Act reauthorization. They were looking for a \$5 million contribution from Representative Betz. Klickitat county made a similar request to Representative Herrera Beutler. Ultimately, Rep. Betz decided not to submit any project requests. Representative Herrera Beutler from Klickitat County will continue to move forward with his request.

Greenwood noted that staff for Port of Hood River is updating the Bridge Replacement Project Director job description. On the NEPA process both the archaeological and historic structure technical reports are complete and are being distributed for agency review. The biological opinion covering the Endangered Species Act is still pending. Greenwood also commented that there is about \$600,000 remaining with the House Bill 2017 funding.

### **Finance Plan Criteria Review**

Steven Siegel provided a presentation as included in the board packet regarding the Finance Plan. Comm. Babitz asked if the toll revenue assumptions were conservative. Siegel responded that in general these are middle of the road assumptions. Kate McBride asked how to get a credit rating when you are a brand-new entity. Siegel replied that the credit rating will be based on the math of the bonds themselves. In the end the lenders just want to know that its going to get repaid.

### **Strategy Principles Review**

Greenwood turned to Comm. Chapman for a brief summary regarding the conversation she had with Mayor Keethler on the Strategic Principles document. Chapman acknowledged that after further review of the document, they came to an understanding of what the purpose of this document was and created a final draft. Greenwood commented that ultimately, they want to deliver the best project using the most efficient means available, and believes this draft is a good compromise. Bi-State Working Group members agreed.

### **Adjourn:**

Greenwood noted that he will try to find a monthly date that works for everyone. Greenwood will be emailing everyone to finalize the dates.

*Minutes submitted by Patty Rosas*

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