



# Bridge Replacement Project

## Project update

The Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge is a vital transportation link connecting Hood River, Oregon with the communities of White Salmon and Bingen in Washington. Since 2003, the Port of Hood River (Port) has been working to advance the replacement of this bridge that was originally constructed in 1924. Currently, the Port is advancing the design of the replacement bridge, completing environmental review and pursuing funding for design and construction. A Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) consisting of Mayors and County Commissioners from both Hood River and Klickitat Counties monitors the project and advises the Port on bridge replacement activities.

## Current project activities:

- POHR Board of Commissioners promoted Bridge Replacement Project Director, Kevin Greenwood, to Executive Director effective October 1.
- The project is developing a Revenue Optimization Plan and working with the Washington State Transportation Commission on a Traffic and Revenue Study, all aimed at studying and modeling different scenarios for tolling to provide long-term, secure funding and financing for the bridge.
- Preliminary work for the geotechnical services are underway; geotechnical services are expected to begin in early 2023.
- On October 14, POHR will host legislators from Oregon and Washington to discuss the critical need for a replacement bridge and pathways to secure state funding.
- POHR and Klickitat County jointly applied for three grants of \$195 million (INFRA, MEGA, and RURAL) under the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant within USDOT. The project was not awarded the INFRA grant, but the applications under MEGA and RURAL are still pending.
- POHR and Klickitat County also applied for an additional \$100M grant under the Bridge Investment Program (BIP), also under USDOT. The application is pending.
- POHR and Klickitat County jointly applied for a \$2.5 million Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) planning grant to create an Action Plan to ensure that safe bicycle and pedestrian access is included on the new bridge.

## 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.

