

11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Columbia Gorge Fisheries and Watershed Science Conference  
PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

TITLE: Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project

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ABSTRACT:

The Port of Hood River has owned and operated the Hood River/White Salmon Interstate Bridge since 1950. The 4,418' steel truss bridge was originally constructed in 1924. It provides a critical, bi-state transportation link in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, but it is over 30 years past its design life. It creates a hazardous traffic bottleneck during highway closures. It has 9'4" travel lanes, vastly undersized for today's vehicles, and no pedestrian or bicycle facilities. The 80,000 lbs. weight limit restricts vehicle freight movement; and the narrow, poorly aligned navigation channel presents the greatest navigational hazard on the entire Columbia/Snake River federal inland waterway system.

The passage of Oregon HB 2750 and HB 2017 during the 2017 Oregon legislative session provided funding to complete the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and allow the Port to consider Public Private Partnerships (P3s) as a financing option.

Since January, the Port has accomplished several tasks to push the project forward, including:

- Hired a Bridge Replacement Project Director to manage contracts, processes and outreach related to the financing and environmental clearances required to proceed with construction.
- Executed an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation for the \$5 million application for environmental permits and financial analyses.
- Contracted with OTAK, a NEPA Technical Advisor, to assist in the environmental clearances.
- Contracted with SW Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to facilitate the NEPA EIS Consultant Selection Process.
- Developed a new webpage and blog for updating the public and archiving pertinent policy documents (<https://portofhoodriver.com/bridge/bridge-replacement-project/bridge-replacement-blog/>)

The Port of Hood River looks forward to working with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fishing Commission and other local agencies to determine the best solution for replacing the Hood River/White Salmon Bridge.