



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, March 14, 2022 | 2pm – 4pm
Port of Hood River – via Zoom
1000 E Port Marina Drive, Hood River OR 97031

In Attendance:

Members: Chair, Mike Fox (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; Vice Chair, Jake Anderson (Commissioner), Klickitat County; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; Catherine Kiewit (Mayor), City of Bingen; Kate McBride (Mayor), City of Hood River; Bob Benton (Commissioner), Hood River County.

Alternates: Kristi Chapman (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County.

Staff/Consultants: Kevin Greenwood (Project Director), Port of Hood River; Michael McElwee (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Steve Siegel, Siegel Consulting; Brad Boswell and Jessica Hostetler, Boswell Consulting; Sam Hunaidi and Rob Wattman, ODOT; Michael Williams, WSDOT; Gordie Kelsey, Klickitat County.

Guests: Sen. Curtis King; Erick Haynie, Reg. 1 ACT; Jon Davies, Reg. 1 ACT; Jess Groves, Reg. 1 ACT; Megan Ramey, Reg. 1 ACT; Chuck Green and Scott Nettleton, Otak; Catherine Hovell, Michael Shannon, and Phoebe Hyun, HNTB; Ian Cannon, Exeltech; Matt Ransom, SWRTC.

Welcome

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) Chairman, Mike Fox, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Commissioner Fox turned to Sen. King for a brief update. Sen. King noted that the bi-state bridge authority bill is on the governor's desk awaiting signatures. All indications are that it will be signed. Sen. King commended Oregon legislature and the governor for passing bridge authority legislation and signing it immediately and added that this was another step to get the bridge built. A transportation package was put together and \$75 million went towards the Hood River-White Salmon bridge. Sen. King asked when some or all the funds would be needed so that they can assign a time frame for when those funds should be available. Commissioner Fox provided a timeline with a bridge completion date of October 2030. Sen. King strongly encouraged them to shorten that time frame and look at the schedule to see where things can be moved up. Sen. King noted that costs are going to keep rising so the sooner it can be built the lower the cost for all citizens in both states. Kevin Greenwood inquired about the \$1.5 million additional funds to WSDOT for traffic and revenue studies. Sen. King replied that Rep. Fey requested to have a study of toll revenues on the bridge to know what the revenues are going to be.

February 14 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes from February 14 regular meeting were approved by consensus.

Legislative Update

Greenwood reported that on the Oregon side the current federal administration has appropriated approximately \$800 million to ODOT through the IJA program. The local bridge program was bumped up from \$35 million to \$100 million. The Oregon Transportation Committee (OTC) will finalize the new program at the end of March. Greenwood noted that the BSWG will soon start the development of the Commission Formation Agreements. In Oregon its anticipated that it will be a long session in 2023. Thorn Run Partners is planning a more aggressive ask for the bridge contribution during long session.

Replacement Bridge Management Contract (RBMC) RFP

Greenwood reported that they received comments from ODOT on the RBMC RFP document. Greenwood attended a meeting with Commissioner Fox and Sam Hunaidi from ODOT. There were no significant changes to the document, and it will be presented to the Port Commission on March 15 for their approval. The document should be live by March 16. Kate McBride noted her concern that the document did not specify working within a national scenic area. The document also does not note that by the end of the first year the RBMC would be looking at P3 as an option. Commissioner Fox explained the evaluation process and added that there is a monthly workplan that lists out all the major tasks that the BSWG needs them to do. This workplan can still be adjusted in the next few weeks, before it is presented to the contractor in the final negotiations. There was consensus to proceed with the RFP as written and present it to the Port Commissioner for approval. Greenwood noted that once the document goes live any inquires related to the procurement must be directed to him.

Greenwood noted that the Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled for March 31. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Commissioner Fox presented a draft agenda and discussed everyone's role in the meeting. There was consensus to move forward with the proposed agenda. Greenwood will develop a PowerPoint that will include everyone's speaking parts.

Commission Formation Agreement Process – S. Siegel

Greenwood turned to Steve Siegel for a brief summarization of the Commission Formation Agreements. Siegel referenced the memo that was provided to the BSWG and noted that its purpose was to provide a comprehensive broad explanation of what needs to be done over the next several years. Siegel noted that although there is a lot of work, it can be implemented in phases if necessary. The Commission formation schedule targets a Commission effective date of July 1, 2023. It will take a couple of years for the Commission to be fully operational. Commissioner Fox expressed his concern over they large amount of work and decisions this will require. Commissioner Fox asked the BSWG if anyone was interested or willing to work closely with Steve Siegel and Kevin Greenwood to bring forward decisions that need to be made to the BSWG. Bob Benton offered to help until his term ends at the end of the year. Group consensus was to have Bob Benton be the liaison between the BSWG and the Commission formation process.

Adjourn

Next meeting is scheduled for April 11.

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