



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, September 19, 2022 | 2:00pm – 4pm
Port of Hood River – Commission Board Room & 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; Catherine Kiewit (Mayor), City of Bingen; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; 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; Joe Sullivan, City of Bingen (Councilor); Jason Hartmann (Councilor), City of White Salmon; David Sauter (Commissioner), Klickitat County; Jessica Metta (Councilor), City of Hood River.

Staff/Consultants: Kevin Greenwood (Project Director), Port of Hood River; Genevieve Scholl, Port of Hood River; Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Kary Whitt, HNTB; Paul Huston, HNTB; Catherine Hovell, HNTB, Steve Siegel, Siegel Consulting.

Guests: Keith Lynch; Tom Loynes; Jessica Bull, JLA; Mike Williams, WSDOT; Carol Snead, ODOT; Nathan Villeneuve; Steve Howe; Rian W; Rob Wattman; Denis Reich, ODOT.

Welcome

Commissioner Mike Fox called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from August 2, 2022, regular meeting was approved by consensus.

Informational Items

Commissioner Fox commented that they received an update on the bridge inspection report. The sufficiency rating was stated at 6.0. The engineer team is in the process of reviewing the report and will provide an overview to the Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) in the next month. Commissioner Fox expressed his concern over the inspection report results and feels they may have to accelerate the replacement bridge.

- a. **BiOp Update** – Denis Reich of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), turned to Tom Loynes of ODOT's environmental team, for a brief update on the Biological Opinion (BiOp). Loynes commented that the Columbia interior branch chief rejected the draft BiOp in July due to formatting protocols. The BiOp was written following a “condensed version” and after review from Quality Control (QC) it was determined that a full BiOp would be more appropriate for the Bridge Replacement Project. The ODOT environmental team will be rewriting the BiOp. Loynes added that they have hundreds of projects in process at any given time with deadlines. However, two blocks of time have been set up next week to

begin working on the BiOp for the Port of Hood River (POHR) and will continue to setup blocks of time each week until it is complete. Loynes hopes to have a signed BiOp by the first of the year, but it could be sooner. Commissioner Fox expressed the urgency to complete the BiOp as soon as possible. Loynes added that the draft BiOp should be completed within 30 days starting in October.

- b. **Government Affairs 2023 Strategy** – Kevin Greenwood, Project Director, noted that there is a State Legislative Tour scheduled for October 14. The primary guests are from the senate and house transportation committees from Oregon and Washington. The tour will start at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The BSWG suggested storyboards and a tour on the Cascade Sternwheeler. It was also suggested creating another video that interviews smaller businesses that are reliant on the bridge. The BSWG consensus was to have Commissioner Kristi Chapman, Mayor Marla Keethler, Mayor Kate McBride, and Kevin Greenwood create a revised agenda and coordinate the event.

The proposed date for the Washington DC trip was set for Mid-November and has been rescheduled for the first week of December. Greenwood will reach out to Hal Hiemstra to set a date.

Commissioner Fox commented that the BSWG has been receiving several meeting requests to meet with various legislators over the next 6-8 weeks. Greenwood added that the BSWG is not required to attend every session, but they are encouraged to attend if available. Mayor McBride suggested creating a signup sheet for the BSWG to ensure that someone will be attending each meeting. Greenwood will create the signup sheet and email it to the BSWG.

- c. **Replacement Bridge Management Consultant, HNTB** – Mike Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, commented that today's presentation is to discuss items that they would like to advance. Shannon turned to Brian Munoz, HNTB Project Controls, for a target schedule overview. The current target schedule assumes Progressive Design-Build procurement. For high-level planning purposes, the timing and flow of the procurement process is like Construction Manager – General Contractor (CM-GC).

Paul Huston, HNTB Project Delivery Method, provided an overview of the five delivery method options: Design-Bid-Build, CMGC, Design-Build, Progressive Design-Build, and Public-Private Partnership. Currently HNTB is working towards engaging with potential contractors to raise awareness of the project. By the end of October HNTB plans to have an initial delivery methods workshop with the BSWG. Options will be evaluated by late November and HNTB will provide a recommendation to the BSWG by Mid-December.

Catherine Hovell, HNTB Project Engineer, summarized engineering advancement and their plan moving the design forward. Some of the proposed design advancements are: Geotech boring study, lock in profile and alignment, and utility relocations. Hovell also discussed Geotech exploration. Some of their goals are to develop a preliminary subsurface profile, determine feasibility of foundation options, and estimate seismic hazards and potential mitigation options. The proposed exploration plan includes 2 borings, 2 CPTs on the Oregon side, 10 in-water borings, 1 boring on the Washington side.

There was consensus from the BSWG to allow HNTB to provide a work scope proposal in the next couple of days for review. Commissioner Fox commented that Kevin Greenwood is now the Executive Director of the Port, and therefore strongly believes that Mike Shannon and Brian Munoz should be made full time due to the workload increase. This recommendation will be included in the HNTB proposal.

Commission Formation Agreements (CFA)

Mike Shannon commented that the second version of the CFA will be submitted this week for review. Shannon requested that any feedback be submitted within two weeks.

Grant Updates

Mike Shannon reported that they were not selected for the INFRA grant, but there is still an opportunity to be selected for the Mega Program or the Rural Program that are also for \$195 million. The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) application has been submitted.

4th Quarter 2022 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Fox proposed meeting at least two times a week in the next couple of months. This is due to the amount of work that is coming up that requires consensus from the BSWG. Shannon presented a proposed schedule through December. There was consensus from the BSWG to proceed with the proposed schedule.

Action Items

- a. ODOTs environmental team to provide a draft BiOp within 30 days starting in October.
- b. ODOTs environmental team to provide a signed BiOp on or before January 1, 2023.
- c. Kristi Chapman, Marla Keethler, Kate McBride, and Kevin Greenwood will provide an updated agenda and coordinate the State Legislative Tour on October 14.
- d. Kevin Greenwood will reach out to Hal Hiemstra to set a date the first week of December for the Washington DC return trip.
- e. Kevin Greenwood will create a signup sheet for the BSWG for the upcoming legislator meetings.
- f. HNTB will provide a work scope proposal in the next couple of days.

Adjourn

Commissioner Fox adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

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