



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, October 03, 2022 | 3:00pm – 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 (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Genevieve Scholl, Port of Hood River; Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Kay Witt, HNTB; Steve Siegel, Siegel Consulting.

Guests: Carl See, WSTC; Tim Boesch, CDM Smith,

Welcome

Commissioner Mike Fox called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) minutes from September 19, 2022, regular meeting was approved by consensus.

Review of Previous Action Items

Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, provided an overview of previous action items. HNTB has submitted Amendment No. 1 to ARUP for review. HNTB will meet with ARUP on October 7, followed by an internal review with the BSWG on October 17, and then a presentation to the Port Commission on October 18.

Shannon noted that they will follow up with ODOT to track the progress on the Biological Opinion (BiOp). Commissioner Fox requested that individual names of responsible parties be included on this action item. Commissioner Fox added that the action item should also include the review and approval of the draft by late December.

Mayor Kate McBride provided a brief update on the State Legislative Tour on October 14. Mayor McBride noted they have the panelists lined up and a draft handout has been created. The BSWG also discussed the sequence of events. Mayor Marla Keethler will be the moderator at the meeting. Commissioner Kristi Chapman will reach out to all the panel members and explain the purpose of the meeting and next steps.

Shannon commented that the Washington DC return trip is scheduled for December 6, 7, and 8. Commissioner Fox noted that Jake Anderson, Marla Keethler, Mike Fox, and Michael Shannon will be attending the DC return trip.

Informational Items

- a. **Status on Oregon Legislative Meetings** – Shannon noted that there has been a total of 6 legislative meetings. One of the most common questions is where the funding is coming from, and how much the locals will be contributing as well.
- b. **CFA 2nd Draft Review** – Shannon noted that the 2nd draft is out for review by all parties. A final draft will be presented to the BSWG in November for approval. Commissioner Jake Anderson noted that a response was received from the City of White Salmon and there was some concern of misrepresentation. The recommendation was made to have 2 county and 1 city appointed members from Oregon and 2 county and 1 city appointed members Washington. Steve Siegle of Siegel Consulting requested to have some time to review the recommendation.
- c. **Grant Status** – Shannon reported that they received an additional question from Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) that oversees the three grants: Mega, INFRA, and Rural. Shannon added that this shows that the project is still being reviewed. The Bridge Infrastructure Program (BIP) and Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) is still being considered. Shannon noted that there will be a presentation on TIFIA loans at the October 17 BSWG meeting.
- d. **Treaty MOA** – Shannon noted that the treaty MOA is for the fishing mitigation impacts. HNTB will be taking the lead on the agreement and a draft MOA is in development for review in October with Yakama Nation. Commissioner Fox suggested paying the tribes not to fish near the construction zones.
- e. **Section 106 MOA** – Shannon reported that the MOAs should be going out for legal review this week with possible signatures by the end of the year.
- f. **WSTC T&R Analysis (CDM Smith)** – Shannon commented that CDM Smith has been collaborative with HNTB. CDM Smith plans to provide a presentation of their findings in December. Shannon turned to Carl See of Washington State Transportation Commission for a brief overview of the study. The primary goal is to develop planning level traffic and revenue analysis resulting toll funding capacity across multiple scenarios to support future funding decisions for the proposed bridge replacement. This study should also inform a potential investment grade traffic and revenue study.

Kary Witt of HNTB, commented that they will be working with the Port Commission and BSWG to look at optimizing toll revenue for the purpose of a potential toll increase in 2023 and to build reserves to help finance the new bridge.

Action Items

Shannon reviewed the upcoming action items which include the HNTB Amendment No. 1 and ARUP service contract. New action items:

- a. HNTB will meet with ARUP on October 7, followed by an internal review with the BSWG on October 17, and then a presentation to the Port Commission on October 18 regarding Amendment 1.

- b. Commissioner Fox requested that individual names of responsible parties be included on the BiOp action item. Commissioner Fox added that the action item should also include the review and approval of the draft by late December.
- c. Steve Siegel will review CFA recommendation for appointees and provide a response by next week.

Adjourn

Commissioner Fox adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

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