



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, October 17, 2022 | 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; Kate McBride (Mayor), City of Hood River.

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

Staff/Consultants: Kevin Greenwood (Executive Director), Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Kary Witt, HNTB; Steve Siegel, Siegel Consulting.

Guests: Michael Williams, WSDOT; Sean McMaster, Catherine Hovell; Kate Trimble; Jessica Pickul, JLA; Herb Fricke.

Welcome

Commissioner Mike Fox called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

Information Items

- a. **Update on October 14 Meeting** – Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, commented that the October 14 meeting was successful. Over 30 legislative representatives from Oregon and Washington attended the meeting. Commissioner Fox acknowledged the BSWG members and staff for their efforts in coordinating the event. Commissioner Arthur Babitz commented that what resonated with his group at the event was that the ladder fire truck was unable to cross the bridge due to its size. Mayor Kate McBride noted that the tolling discussion was confusing and added that it should be clarified where the money is going.
- b. **Update on DC Trip** – The DC Trip is scheduled for December 6 – 8. Commissioner Fox suggested taking the story boards that were used on the October 14 event. Commissioner Fox also suggested having a storyline when speaking to the Department of Transportation and the Tribal MOA's.
- c. **Status on Oregon Legislative Meetings** – Shannon reported that they continue to meet with Oregon legislators.
- d. **Grant Status** – There has been no change in the status of the grants. The submittal for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) will need to be resubmitted. Additional information was sent to the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant and Bridge Infrastructure Program (BIP).

- e. **Treaty MOA's 7 Section 106 MOA** – Shannon noted that there was legal review on the Treaty MOA's. Section 106 MOA is currently in legal review. Sec. 106 should be ready by the end of the year for signatures as well as the Biological Opinion (BiOp).
- f. **CFA 2nd Draft Review** – The 2nd draft of the Commission Formation Agreements (CFA) is in review by all parties. Shannon noted that the law does allow for TIFIA loans to be longer than 35 years, but it has never been done before. The Primary Place of Business (PPB) for the Bi-State Bridge Authority (BSBA) is permanent however the BSBA may have other offices or facilities in Oregon or Washington. Commissioner Fox asked for the BSWG's opinion. Commissioner Babitz feels that because of the Port of Hood River's (Port) history with Washington the political aspects outweigh the financial aspects. Commissioner Chapman disagrees and believes that the relationship has been corrected and added that the Port has a tolling system that could be contracted to the BSBA. Mayor McBride believes that based on the financial aspects the PPB should be in Oregon. Mayor Marla Keethler suggested that they reach out to the community for their input on the PPB. The BSWG consensus was to do public outreach to get input on the PPB and to provide an update on the Replacement Bridge Project.

Shannon clarified the CFA local appointments and noted that the cities could make appointments to the BSBA. Shannon highlighted the importance of the BSBA having independence from political elections. The BSWG consensus was to have the subcommittee review the CFAs appointment process and provide a recommendation.

Shannon also reported that the CFA legal review is underway. The Port's legal counsel and City of Hood River's legal counsel has reviewed the CFA and provided comments that will be incorporated into the document.

- g. **Amendment 1 HNTB** – Shannon noted that Amendment 1 has been submitted. The Amendment covers early geotechnical work, preliminary engineering work and bring key staff to full time on the project. Kevin Greenwood, Executive Director, noted that ARUP has provided their independent review of the scope and fee. Mayor McBride suggested looking at potential housing options to help reduce costs. There was consensus from the BSWG to recommend approval of Amendment 1 to the Port Commission.
- h. **Amendment 2 HNTB** – Kary Witt of HNTB introduced Kate Trimble for a brief presentation on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) credit program. TIFIA is a US DOT credit assistance program within the Build America Bureau. TIFIA is known to have the lowest interest rate and flexible amortization. Interest will not accrue until proceeds are drawn and there is no pre-payment penalty. Some of the TIFIA requirements include a \$50 million minimum project cost, credit assistance limit, and a dedicated repayment source. Trimble further explained the steps to obtain the TIFIA loan, the major requirements, and estimated timeline. There are fees associated with the TIFIA loan such as the reimbursement to US DOT for their outside advisors that could range from \$400k - \$700k. Next steps are to initiate consultation with the Build America Bureau, begin to build the team of advisors, and start compiling the Letter of Interest. Commissioner Fox commented that he is interested in knowing more on how to build their credit rating.

Action Items

- a. Possible storyboards and storyline for DC Trip.
- b. Organize a public outreach event to get input on the PPB and to provide an update on the Replacement Bridge Project.

- c. Subcommittee to review the CFAs appointment process and provide a recommendation.

Adjourn

Additional agenda items were deferred to the next BSWG meeting. Commissioner Fox adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

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