



HOOD RIVER-WHITE SALMON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Project Director Report
March 06, 2023

The following summarizes Replacement Bridge Project activities from February 06, 2023 to March 06, 2023:

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- *RBMC team is continuing to meet with WSP, ODOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) related to the NEPA/FEIS process and Treaty Tribe Memorandum of Agreement (MOA's).*
- *RBMC team is meeting with ODOT, WSDOT and FHWA on the RFP for the Progressive Design Build Procurement.*
- *Grant Tracking for WA, ARPA, Build Grants will be on going each quarter.*
- *Legislative Outreach in continuing with Oregon, Washington and DC*

COMMUNICATIONS

- *The web site has been launched [Hood River Bridge Replacement Project](#) and is seeing regular updates*
- *Since Jan 1, 2023, the bridge replacement has been covered in the media 11 times, primarily by Columbia Gorge News.*
- *In the last month, we discussed project needs with legislators at both state capitols at the Gorgeous Night events, increasing visibility and recognition of the project need.*
- *Even with a soft launch of the website, the site has had 907 unique visitors to date.*
- *Thanks to the 1,925 public responses to the Primary Place of Business survey, the BSWG was able to make a decision to locate the PPB in Oregon.*
- *Social media accounts are now active and actively we're building followers.*

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

- *State Legislative Activities*
 - *Oregon*
 - *Letter was signed by the BSWG members and is ready to be sent to labor unions to obtain support for the project.*
 - *Washington*
- *Federal Legislative Activities*
 - *CDS Appropriations requests are being coordinated*
 - *Virtual update meetings held with:*
 - *2/17*
 - *Sen. Cantwell*
 - *Rep. Blumenauer*
 - *Sen. Merkley*
 - *2/22*

- Sen. Murray
 - 2/24
 - Rep. Newhouse
 - Rep. Perez
 - Sen. Wyden
- We are planning to make two trips per year to DC in support of funding requests
 - Looking at the end of April for the first trip
- We will be working with Oregon and Washington and Federal lobbyist to update the Legislative Strategy for the next 3 years.

HOOD RIVER-WHITE SALMON BRIDGE AUTHORITY

- The Final Draft of the Commission Formation Agreements (CFA) has been distributed to the BSWG with a recommendation to move forward with obtaining signatures from the 6 parties of the agreement.
- Port of Hood River signed CFA on 2/7/23, anticipate other members signing in March
- HRWSBA Legal Counsel Recommendations for consideration:
 - Stacey Lewis at Pacifica Law Group in Seattle, as recommended by Steve Siegel.
 - Eileen G. Eakins, who provided Port Commission training back in 2021 - 5285 Meadows Road, Suite 400, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, (503) 607-0517, eileen@lgl-advisors.com;
 - Clark Balfour at Cable Huston, who I have worked with over the years on municipal utility projects: <https://www.cablehuston.com/attorneys/clark-i-balfour/>;
 - Anna Cavaleri, Jerry's partner <http://hoodriverlaw.com/attorney-profiles/anna-c-cavaleri/>

FUNDING FINANCE & TOLLING

- Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) T&R Analysis
 - HNTB and the PORT continue to coordinate with WSTC
 - WSTC next meeting is on March 14th – 15th
 - They will be discussion around the two scenarios on agenda related to the T&R Study for the Replacement Bridge
 - Link to agenda <https://wstc.wa.gov/news/2023/02/27/meeting-agenda-march-14-15-2023>
 - Link to register for meeting WSTC Zoom Meeting Registration – [March 14](#)
 - WSTC team will be updating the Transportation Commission at 1:30pm .
 - WSTC will provide an update on the project to the BSWG on March 6th and March 20th.
 - WSTC will provide an update on the project to the Port Comm on March 21st
 - Schedule Milestones:
 - March 2023 – WSTC approves two refined tolling scenarios for further analysis
 - May 2023 – Draft Study findings and recommendations presented to WSTC

- *June 2023 – Final Report of findings and recommendations presented to WSTC and submitted to Washington State Legislature*
- *BSWG Tolling Study*
 - *Funding Finance and Tolling team is developing a model that will support the consideration of different tolling scenarios and their impacts on the financial plan to support the construction of a new bridge.*

PENDING GRANT FUNDING UPDATES

- *Raise Planning Grant (2023)*
 - *Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued: 11/30/22, Update to NOFO received on 12/14/22*
 - *Application Submitted: 2/28/23*
 - *Requested amount of funding: \$3.6M*
 - *Our application focused on a planning grant that will evaluate Bike/Ped connections and Transit services access/connections to the new bridge. With a focus on how the bridge is a vital part of a transportation system.*
 - *Over 20 Letters of Support were included with our application*
- *Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program (SS4A)*
 - *Next Opening April 2023*
 - *2023 NOFO Spring 2023*
- *Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)*
 - *Next Opening – Spring 2023*
 - *2023 NOFO not released*
 - *INFRA (\$8 B available over 4 years FY22 to FY26)*
 - *MEGA (\$5 B available over 4 years FY22 to FY26)*
 - *Rural (\$2 B available over 4 years FY22 to FY26)*
 - *The project was notified that it was not successful in obtaining any 2022 grant funding from the MPDG. A Debrief is being targeted for April 2023 in DC.*
 - *MPDG Comments from USDOT*
 - *C. The project will be cost-effective (49 USC 6701(f))*
 - *D. With respect to related non-Federal financial commitments, 1 or more stable and dependable sources of funding and financing are available to (i) construct, operate, and maintain the project; and (ii) cover cost increases (49 USC 6701(f))*
 - *E. The applicant has, or will have, sufficient legal, financial, and technical capacity to carry out the project (49 USC 6701(f))*
- *Bridge Investment Program (BIP)*
 - *Next Opening – Summer 2023*
 - *2023 NOFO – Summer 2023*
- *CDS Appropriation*
 - *Requests is being submitted for a total of \$8M between the delegations for Preliminary Engineering/Design, Right of Way Acquisition, Mitigation identified as part of the NEPA process.*
 - *Murray request was submitted on 2/28/23*

- *Merkley/Wyden request was submitted on 3/3/23*
- *Cantwell request will be submitted on 3/10/23*
- *Blumenauer and Newhouse are anticipated to be on 3/17/23*

EXECUTED GRANT FUNDING UPDATES

- **Build20**
 - *Grant Awarded 9/23/22*
 - *Funding: \$5M – Federal Share, \$1.25M Local Match (Washington Grant) – Total \$6.25M with an Expenditure Deadline of 12/31/2024*
 - *Total Submitted for Reimbursement: \$0*
 - *Total Reimbursement received to date: \$0*
 - *Remaining Funds: \$5 million*
 - *We have received our certification from FHWA on 12/21/22. We have received access to the RADs quarterly reporting system for FHWA on 1/26/22. Training with FHWA is still pending.*
 - *Q4 2022 reporting has been submitted through RADs to FHWA*
- **ARPA (Oregon Grant)**
 - *Grant Awarded 5/12/22*
 - *Funding: \$5M with an Expenditure Deadline of 12/31/26*
 - *Total Submitted for Reimbursement: \$225,353.30*
 - *Total Reimbursement received to date: \$225,353.30*
 - *Remaining Funds: \$4,774,646.70*
 - *4th Quarter reimbursement submitted on January 10th, 2023. Next reimbursement submittal April 2023*
- **WA SB 5165 Grant**
 - *Grant Awarded 2/2/22*
 - *Funding: \$5M with an Expenditure Deadlines of 6/30/23 (\$3M) and 6/30/23 (\$2M)*
 - *Total Submitted for Reimbursement: \$1,341,149.25*
 - *Total Reimbursement received to date: \$384,693.39*
 - *Remaining Funds: \$3,658,850.75*
 - *4th Quarter reimbursement submitted for \$956,455.86. Next reimbursement submittal will be April 2023.*

TREATY TRIBE MOA'S

- *A Semi-weekly meeting has been set up with ODOT and FHWA specific to advancing the Treaty Tribe MOA's. A collaboration space has been created on the Project Portal site.*
 - **Yakama Nation (YN).**
 - *Draft MOA was submitted by Roy Watters to the Yakama Nation on 1/26/23*
 - *A meeting to discuss the Section 106 MOA and Treaty Fishing MOA was held on 3/3/23. Meeting was positive and they were very appreciative of the work that was done in the draft Treaty MOA. Yakama Nation will review the draft MOA with a tentative date to provide responses in two weeks. Tribal*

members agreed that ODOT could move forward with the next steps in the 106 MOA process

- **Nez Perce**
 - *The Draft MOA was submitted to ODOT on 1/17/23*
 - *ODOT approved us to move forward with sending the Draft MOA on 1/24/23.*
 - *2/2/23 – Project update call with Amanda Rogers of Nez Perce and Herb Fricke (Project Tribal Coordinator), Roy Watters (ODOT). MOA was sent to Amanda on 2/2/23.*
 - *We are coordinating a project update meeting with them in the next couple months.*
 - *Port attorney is coordinating with Nez Perce tribe as they requested*

- **Umatilla (CTUIR).**
 - *The Draft MOA was submitted to the Umatilla Tribe on 1/25/23*
 - *Meeting and Presentation were held with CTUIR Fish and Wildlife commission on 1/24/23*
 - *Topics covered*
 - *Project Update,*
 - *Request for Letter of Support – Treaty to a vote and was approved 4/0 to provide a letter of support for the project.*
 - *Update on CTUIR toll exemption request – exemption is being finalized and will be presented to the Port Commission on Feb 7th for approval. Umatilla tribal members will be at the meeting.*
 - *Treaty MOA – a hard copy of the Draft MOA was provided to the Tribal legal counsel and a electronic copy supplied also. A follow up meeting is being schedule for the third week in February.*
 - *Work Force Development – Follow up meetings are being scheduled the tribes and TERO offices for input into the Work Force Development criteria that will be provided in our RFP.*
 - *Attendees: ODOT, FHWA, Commissioner Fox, RBMC*
 - *Meeting was cancelled for 2/22 with Umatilla due to weather, looking at March 23 to as rescheduled date*
 - *We have received a letter of support for the bridge project from CTUIR.*

- **Warm Springs.**
 - *Our team has made contact with Warm Springs and a meeting is being coordinated for March.*

RBMC

PROGRESSIVE DESIGN BUILD RFQ/RFP

- *Sub-schedule has been developed for the procurement of the Progressive Design Build Team (See Packet) – opportunities to advance the schedule are being reviewed.*
- *A meeting was held with ODOT on 2/10 to discuss their role on the upcoming PDB Procurement and a follow up meeting is scheduled for 3/7*
- *A meeting was held with FHWA on 2/16 to discuss their role on the upcoming PDB Procurement and a monthly recurring meeting has been set up to start on 3/16*
- *A meeting was held with WSDOT on 2/23. WSDOT has provided a point of contact for the PDB team to work with on the RFP development.*

KEY STAKE HOLDERS

RAILROAD

- *Kickoff/Update meeting was held with BNSF on 1/25/23, they indicated the new bridge should accommodate a future triple track and a 30' vertical clearance. At this time these are not seen as major impacts to the project.*
- *Coordination of work activities over the track will be critical do to the high volume of usage.*
- *BNSF did not anticipate long review periods given their current workload, they indicated that they had adequate capacity to support the coordination needed on this project.*

GEOTECHNICAL

- *The two Oregon on land borings were completed on Feb 6th and the report is being developed. Cultural Resource monitoring was done and no cultural resources were found.*
- *Coordination with the tribes will work through ODOT but it is likely the PORT will be asked to fund the tribal monitoring costs.*

SURVEY

- *A sub-schedule for survey activities has been developed and attached. The activities will include development of a base map, verifying and setting control points, identification and mapping of exiting utilities, identification of jurisdictional ownership lines for ODOT, WSDOT and local agencies, location and mapping of Geotechnical Borings.*
- *Completed mapping checks on Oregon side of bridge*
- *Completed monument search on Oregon side of bridge*
- *Completed records research in Oregon*

RIGHT OF WAY

- *Coordination has begun with WSDOT and ODOT to define the jurisdictional limits for both agencies.*
- *Our right of way team is coordinating with the two property owners in Washington that will need to provide Right of Entry for the geotechnical borings. The two owners are a private owner and Klickitat County. We have received the ROE letters from both.*
- *The SDEIS preferred alternative does indicate a potential whole take of the private landowner and we will need to coordinate with the BSWG and PORT on when to move forward with discussion with the landowner on this action.*

PERMITTING

- **SHPO Permit for Upland Work in Oregon** – This permit was issued on 1/19/23. CTOGR included some standard stipulations in their permit comments. The Oregon UPLAND boring work can proceed and is scheduled for next week.
- **USACE Permit** – USACE issued a provisional permit in late December. They will finalize the permit once DEQ provides the 401 C water quality certification. All SHPO/tribal coordination for the in-water and WA. Borings has been completed by USACE.
- **DEQ Permit** – The permit application was submitted to DEQ on 1/13/23. Expect DEQ to issue the 401 C in the next 2-3 months. As noted above, once DEQ issues their permit USACE will issued their final permit verification. USACE is just waiting on DEQ.
- **DSL Short Term Access Agreement** – This approval was issued in September 2022.
- **DSL No Permit Needed Letter** – This letter was issued January 18, 2023 confirming the work does not require a DSL Removal-Fill Permit.
- **WDFW Hydraulic Permit Approval** – The original HPA was modified with new project information and schedule on January 11th. The HPA includes several standard BMPs and notification requirements. Notification must be made at least three days prior to in-water work on WA. Side.
- **City of White Salmon SEPA and SMP Exemption Letter** – The final letter from City confirming 7eotech work is except from SEPA and SMP was issued on January 23, 2023.
- **WDNR Aquatic Lands ROE Permit** – We received the requisite signatures from Klickitat Co. and Shin Jin Ko on February 2, 2023. We will submit the application (JARPA) to WDNR by COB February 3, 2023. Expect two months for DNR to issues the ROE permit.
- **NMFS Slopes V Compliance** – The USACE has determined that the work as proposed will result in No Effect on listed fish based on the standard BMPs to be included (SLOPES V BMPs) and the short duration, confined nature of the work. We were able to avoid getting NMFS involved.

When USACE issues the verification, it will also include the necessary ESA/NMFS compliance. The provisional verification discusses this and application of SLOPES V. So this task/compliance need will get completed when USACE issues the permit (without NMFS involvement), which will happen once the DEQ permit lands.

- All permits are in hand except for the three approvals highlighted above. The DEQ permit application was submitted to DEQ on 1/13/23 after they issue their permit USACE will

immediately take the “provisional” moniker off of the provisional verification. Once submitted WDNR should be able to turn around the permit within two months. There is a \$25 fee for this permit.

FINAL EIS/RECORD OF DECISION

- Environmental Impact Statement technical reports are available at <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-ll/public/action/eis/details?eisId=314171>
- Multiple meetings have been held with ODOT and FHWA and commitments have been made from leadership in ODOT and FHWA NW Region that this project is a priority.
- Recurring meetings have been set up and comment tracking system to help manage the process through completion.
- Min from coordination meetings on 2/7 and 2/16 with ODOT and FHWA are attached in packet
- WSP provided updated documents to FHWA and ODOT on 2/13/23
- FHWA provided additional minor comments to the BA on 2/21/23 with a request for ODOT to provide any additional comment. ODOT Carol Snead sent a request to ODOT Liaisons on 2/22/23 for additional comments by 2/28. No comments or responses have been provided by ODOT. WSP has been instructed to make the changes proposed by FHWA and resubmit to ODOT by 3/6/23.
- A meeting was requested with the ODOT Region 1 leadership as a follow up to the lack of response from ODOT.

OTHER ITEMS

KEY MEETINGS

Date:	Subject:
2/7/23	Meeting with FHWA/ODOT on BA edits
2/7/23	Meeting with ODOT on Treaty Tribe MOA Coordination
2/7/23	SB 431 hearing in Salem for \$125 M in funding for bridge project
2/8/23	Gorge-ous Night event in Salem
2/8/23	Multiple one on one meetings with Oregon State Legislature
2/9/23	Cultural Resource coordination with ODOT and FHWA
2/9/23	Meeting with POHR new attorney to review Treaty Tribe MOA’s

2/9/23	Meeting with local union representative on workforce development approach and letter of support for the project
2/10/23	Progressive Design Build kickoff meeting with ODOT
2/10/23	Coordination meeting with Nohemi from Oregon Parks and Recreation Division OPRD on 6F impacts
2/13/23; 2/27/23	Weekly coordination meeting with Port and WSP
2/13/23; 2/27/23	Weekly coordination meeting with Port
2/13/23	Monthly RBMC Task Lead Coord meeting
2/13/23	Contractor Debrief with Kiewit
2/14/23; 2/28/23	Weekly PORT Staff Meeting
2/15/23	Gorge-ous Night event in Olympia
2/15/23	Multiple one on one meetings with Washington Legislature
2/16/23	BA/BO Coordination meeting with ODOT and FHWA
2/16/23	Coordination meeting with ODOT Region 1 leadership, POHR and RBMC
2/16/23	Progressive Design Build Coordination meeting with FHWA
2/17/23	Coordination and project update meeting with Friends of the Gorge
2/17/23	Project update with Sen. Cantwell; Rep. Blumenauer; Sen. Merkley
2/20/23	Funding/Finance/Tolling workshop with BSWG
2/21/23	POHR Comm Meeting
2/22/23	Project update with Sen. Murray
2/22/23	Consultant Debrief with COWI
2/23/23	NEPA coordination meeting with FHWA/ODOT/WSP
2/23/23	MPDG (Infra/Rural/MEGA) Grant debrief with Office of Secretary of Transportation (OST)
2/24/23	Project update with Rep Newhouse; Rep Perez; Sen Wyden
2/27/23	CDS appropriations coordination meeting with Community College
2/27/23	Consultant Debrief with Emerio

<i>2/28/23</i>	<i>2023 RAISE Planning Grant Submittal</i>
<i>2/28/23</i>	<i>Sen. Murray CDS appropriations submittal</i>
<i>2/28/23</i>	<i>Treaty Fishing Mitigation MOA coordination meeting with Yakama Nation/FHWA/ODOT</i>
<i>2/28/23</i>	<i>Funding/Finance/Tolling workshop with BSWG</i>
<i>2/28/23</i>	<i>Consultant Debrief with LMN Architects</i>
<i>3/3/23</i>	<i>Treaty Fishing Mitigation meeting with FHWA/ODOT</i>
<i>3/3/23</i>	<i>Coordination meeting with WSTC T&R Study</i>