



# HOOD RIVER-WHITE SALMON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Project Director Report

April 03, 2023

The following summarizes Replacement Bridge Project activities from March 20, 2023, to April 03, 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 is continuing with Oregon, Washington and DC*

## COMMUNICATIONS

- *The web site has been launched [www.hoodriverbridge.org](http://www.hoodriverbridge.org) and is seeing regular updates*
- *A web article has been developed and is ready for release on Progressive Design Build (See Packet)*
- *A draft press release is included on the formation of the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority that can be released when its formation is complete. (See Packet)*
- *Social media accounts are now active and we're building followers.*

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

- *State Legislative Activities*
  - *Oregon*
  - *Washington*
    - *Washington legislative session ends April 23.*
    - *Washington House proposed to fund the \$75M in Move Ahead Washington funding as Future Funding. (See Packet)*
    - *Washington Senate proposed to fund \$15M in the 23-25 Biennium, \$30M in the 25-27 Biennium, \$30M in the 27-29 Biennium and \$44M as Future Funding. (See Packet)*
- *Federal Legislative Activities*
  - *CDS Appropriations requests have been sent for both Washington and Oregon for a total funding request of \$8M.*
  - *We are planning to make two trips per year to DC in support of funding requests*
    - *Tentative schedule is the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>.*

## HOOD RIVER-WHITE SALMON BRIDGE AUTHORITY

- *The Final Draft of the Commission Formation Agreements (CFA) was 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 April*
- *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](mailto: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 April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>*
    - *Zoom Meeting Registration – April 18*  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_lvDHu\\_M8SqqmDNdoTcBQIQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lvDHu_M8SqqmDNdoTcBQIQ)
    - *Zoom Meeting Registration – April 19*  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QQi8roAjRtmdz8yjNGNxNw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QQi8roAjRtmdz8yjNGNxNw)
    - *Link to agenda <https://wstc.wa.gov/agendas/2023/03/22/meeting-agenda-april-18-19-2023/>*
    - *WSTC will be taking action at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting on the approval of the final two tolling scenarios.*
  - *Schedule Milestones:*
    - *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 updating the pre-construction 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.*
  - *RBMC provided an overview to members of the BSWG on the Benefit Cost Analysis and key areas of focus for this year's grant applications. (See Packet)*

## 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)*
  - *2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released on 3/30/23*
  - *Application Due: 7/10/23 @ 5pm EDT*
  - *Available funding total: \$1.177B*
    - *Planning & Demonstration Grants - Min – Max award \$100,000 to \$10M*
    - *Implementation Grants – Min – Max award \$2.5M to \$25M*
- *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)*
- *Bridge Investment Program (BIP)*
  - *Next Opening – Summer 2023*
  - *2023 NOFO – Summer 2023*

#### **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*
  - *4<sup>th</sup> Quarter reimbursement submitted on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 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*
- *4<sup>th</sup> 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 2/28/23. 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.*
    - *Yakama Nation provided an email update on 3/20/23 that the MOA has been circulated for internal review. We are awaiting their comments and to set up a follow up meeting.*
  - ***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 – MOA was sent to Amanda with Nez Perce on 2/2/23.*
    - *A tentative date to present project updates to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee's (NPTEC) Natural Resource Subcommittee on 4/18/22. A second meeting is being set for June to update the Nez Perce on the project and to introduce the MOA.*
    - *A letter is being drafted to request a Nez Perce letter of support for the project and use of their logo.*
  - ***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*
    - *2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting with Umatilla has been re-scheduled to 4/5/2023, we have not received any comments to date.*
    - *We have received a letter of support for the bridge project from CTUIR.*
  - ***Warm Springs.***
    - *A tentative meeting to introduce the MOA has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribe for 4/11/23.*

## **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 3/7 with region 1 staff and Headquarters Procurement staff to discuss their role on the upcoming PDB Procurement. Robert Wattman will be our point of contact and backed by Sam Hunaidi. A number ODOT technical staff were also at the meeting and provided input into how to move forward. WSDOT also attend this meeting.*
- *Meeting is schedule with ODOT procurement and alternative delivery team for 4/4/23*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *Preliminary drafts of the RFP/RFQ sections are being assembled and task lead meetings are being held to coordinate the development of the RFP/RFQ.*

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.*
- *Underwater drilling is scheduled to start June 19<sup>th</sup> and last 5 weeks.*

#### **SURVEY**

##### *Completed work*

- *Additional right of way research and calculations completed*
- *APS locating underground utilities on Oregon side*

##### *Upcoming work*

- *Complete right of way calculations in OR and WA*

- *Coordinate private utility locates in WA*
- *Map locates in OR and WA*

#### **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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 geotech work is exempt 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.

- 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>
- Responses were provided on 3/28/23 to ODOT for the from ODOT Liaisons related to the Biological Assessment and their writing of the Biological Opinion. (See Packet)
- Email from Denis Reich at ODOT on 3/28 establishing an ODOT Point of Contact for the remainder of the NEPA process. Rod Thompson – ODOT State Environmental Engineer. (See Packet)
- Email from Cindy Callahan at FHWA on 3/28 re-establishing the communication process that should be followed until the signing of the Biological Opinion. (See Packet)
- A coordination meeting was held with the Project Team, NOAA and FHWA on 3/29/23. NOAA indicated that once the liaison receives the updated BA anticipated to be in the next two weeks and all comments are closed that it would take 90 Days to complete the BO and then an additional 45 Days for NOAA’s full review including their legal review. This would set the new anticipated date to receive the signed BO around Sept 1, 2023.
- A monthly recurring coordination meeting has been set up with Cindy Callahan – Senior Biologist (FHWA) and Rod Thompson – State Environmental Engineer (ODOT)

**OTHER ITEMS**

**KEY MEETINGS**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
3/20, 3/27	Weekly Check-in with Port Director and WSP
3/21, 3/28	Port Staff Meeting
	Contractor Project Update with Kiewit
	Treaty Fishing MOA meeting with ODOT

	<i>Port Commission Meeting</i>
<i>3/22</i>	<i>Consultant Project Update with ARUP</i>
	<i>Project update meeting with Office of Secretary of Transportation (OST)</i>
	<i>WSTC T&amp;R Working Group Meeting</i>
<i>3/27</i>	<i>Consultant Debrief with Ballard Marine Construction</i>
<i>3/29</i>	<i>Project Coordination meeting on Biological Opinion with NOAA and FHWA</i>
	<i>Benefit Cost Analysis Workshop with BSWG</i>
<i>3/30</i>	<i>Project Update with staff from Gov. Inslee office</i>
<i>3/30</i>	<i>Consultant Project Update with STV</i>
<i>3/31</i>	<i>Section 106 SHPO Comment Response meeting with WSP and ODOT</i>