



HOOD RIVER–WHITE SALMON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Project Director Report

June 05, 2023

The following summarizes Replacement Bridge Project activities from May 15, 2023 to June 05, 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

- Organized two open houses for the upcoming toll increase on Sept 1st.
 - May 31st – White Salmon Library – meeting was attended by over 150 people, comments, and input received will be compiled for June 20th meeting.
 - June 7th – May Street Elementary School – 4:30 to 7:30

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

- *State Legislative Activities*
 - *Oregon*
 - *A public hearing was held on 5/16 for HB 3622, where we gave testimony in support of this bill. The bill passed out of the Joint Transportation Commission unanimously and has moved to ways and means.*
 - *We received a letter of support from Sen. Bonham and Rep. Helfrich to Secretary Buttigieg confirming their commitment to obtain \$125M for the project. (See Packet)*
 - *Washington*
 - *Contract renewals for both Boswell Consulting and Thorn Run have been received and recommended to the Port Commission for approval for FY23/24. (See Packet)*
- *Federal Legislative Activities*
 - *CDS Appropriations requests have been sent for both Washington and Oregon for a total funding request of \$8M.*
 - *Rep. Blumenauer, Rep. Newhouse, Sen. Wyden, Sen. Merkley and Sen. Cantwell submitted requests in support of the project. We are not expecting this to finalized until the end of this year.*
 - *A trip to DC was held from May 22nd to May 24th in support of funding requests*
 - *Meetings were held with the following (See Packet)*

- *Sen. Patty Murray Office*
- *Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez*
- *Sen. Merkley Office*
- *Sen. Wyden Office*
- *Sen. Cantwell Office*
- *Rep Blumenauer Office*
- *Rep. Dan Newhouse*
- *Nefretite Harrison – Build America Bureau (TIFIA)*
- *Secretary of Transportation Office (Grants)*
- *Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Anderson, Mayor Keethler, and Mike Shannon attended with Hal.*
- *Contract Renewal for Summit Strategies has been received and recommended to the Port Commission for approval. (See Packet)*

HOOD RIVER-WHITE SALMON BRIDGE AUTHORITY (HRWSBA)

- *Commission Formation Agreements were signed by all members, with the last signing on April 26th establishing the Agreement Effective Date.*
 - *Signed copies of the CFA were sent to the Secretary of State in Washington and Oregon*
- *Hood River County and Klickitat County will now begin the process of taking nominations and appointing the 6 directors for the new Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority (HRWSBA).*
- *A work plan is being drafted that will outline the early activities needed by the new HRWSBA in preparation for their initial meeting in July.*
- *The POHR has their legal counsel working on a draft IGA that will be shared with the new HRWSBA.*

FUNDING FINANCE & TOLLING

- *Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) T&R Analysis*
 - *HNTB and the PORT continue to coordinate with WSTC*
 - *May 16th an update on the project was given to the WSTC.*
 - *May 16th a final presentation of the Study material was presented to the WSTC. (See Packet)*
 - *Schedule Milestones:*
 - *June 2023 – Final Report of findings and recommendations will be submitted to Washington State Legislature.*
- *BSWG Tolling Study*
 - *May 31st an Open House was held at the White Salmon Library to obtain input on the two tolling options that will be implemented in Sept. Over 150 people attended the event. The comments and input from the meeting are being summarized. (See Packet)*
 - *The Online Open house also went live on May 31st and will be open until June 14th.*

- June 7th will be the Open House in Oregon at the Elementary School.

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)*
 - *RBMC is working on updating Benefit Cost Analysis and Application prior to release of NOFO*
- *Bridge Investment Program (BIP)*
 - *Next Opening – Summer 2023*
 - *2023 NOFO – Summer 2023*
 - *RBMC is working on updating Application prior to release of NOFO*
- *DOL Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program*
 - *Posted: 4/5/23*
 - *Closing: 7/7/23*
 - *Program Funding: \$80M*
 - *Max Award: \$5M Min Award: \$500K*

EXCUTED 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: \$313,413.78*
 - *Total Reimbursement received to date: \$313,413.78*
 - *Remaining Funds: \$4,686,586.22*
 - Next reimbursement submittal July 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: \$2,205,900.80*
 - *Total Reimbursement received to date: \$384,693.39*
 - *Remaining Funds: \$2,794,090.20*
 - *1st Quarter 23 reimbursement submitted for \$864,760.55*
 - Next reimbursement submittal will be July 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.*
 - *FHWA, ODOT and Project team are continuing to reach out to connect with YN and set up a follow 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.*
 - *On 4/18/23 the Tribe's Cultural Resource and Fisheries departments were able to fully brief Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee's (NPTEC) Natural Resource Subcommittee on the project and the key terms in the draft MOA.*

- *A second meeting has been scheduled for 6/6/23 at the Nez Perce Tribal Headquarters in Lapwai, ID. The project team, ODOT and FHWA will be presenting to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee and update on the project and the Treaty Fishing MOA.*
 - *At the suggestion of the Tribe, the team also submitted a form to the Nez Perce Tribes requesting permission to use their logo in support of the project. This request will be discussed at the 6/6/23 meeting with the Tribal Executive Committee.*
- **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*
 - *The team received comments from CTUIR on the first draft of the MOA on 4/3/23.*
 - *A 2nd Meeting was held with CTUIR on 4/5/2023 to review the comments and discuss ideas on how to determine and quantify mitigation measures within the Treat MOA. The meeting was very positive and follow up meeting is being schedule for mid-May.*
 - *The 2nd draft of the CTUIR MOA was sent to Umatilla on 4/25/2023.*
 - *We are coordinating our next meeting with Umatilla to be in June.*
- **Warm Springs.**
 - *The project team met with Warm Springs Natural Resources group on 4/11/23 and presented a project update and introduced the Draft Treaty MOA to the group.*
 - *The project team also meet with the Warm Springs Council on 4/12/23 to update them on the project.*
 - *A request to use the tribe's logo and to obtain a letter of support for the project was also requested of the tribe. They are considering the request. Sample letters of support were provided to them for reference.*
 - *The project team is working on setting up a 2nd meeting with the tribe to advance discussion around the Treaty Tribe MOA.*

RBMC

PROGRESSIVE DESIGN BUILD RFQ/RFP

- *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.*
- *A meeting is schedule with ODOT Region 1 to provide an update on the RFP development and coordinate their involvement on the PDB procrument*

- *A meeting was held with FHWA on 5/18 to continue updates with them on their role on the upcoming PDB Procurement*
- *A meeting is being coordinated with WSDOT on the PDB procurement.*
- *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. The team is also drafting the evaluation criteria for the procurement.*

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 draft report is in review. 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 start date has been moved to July 10th while coordination is ongoing with tribal fishers. The work will last 5 weeks.*
- *A meeting was held with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to coordinate the overlap of Geotech borings and summer fishing seasons.*

SURVEY

- *Completed Work:*
 - *Continued effort to resolve OR rights of ways & property lines, additional research and documentation received from ODOT and Hood River County.*
- *Upcoming Work:*
 - *Complete right of way calculations 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.*
- *We are finalizing the appraisal on the private property full take in Washington and will be starting work on the Port Facilities.*

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 the permit on 05/09/2023 (See Packet)*
- ***DEQ Permit*** – *Permit received on 5/22/23*
- ***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 Teotech 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 issue the ROE permit. We have coordinated recently with WDNR regarding insurance certifications for the Port and drilling contractor and they have told us the application is complete and we should see the ROE permit in the next few weeks.*
- ***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 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

Date:	Subject:
5/15	Weekly meeting with Port Director
5/16	Washington State Transportation Commission Presentation
5/16	Hearing Presentation on HB 3622
5/17	Weekly WSP/PORT Checking
5/18	Coordination with Trucking Industry on impacts of existing bridge
5/18	Coordination with FHWA on PDB
5/19	Introduction with PNWER
5/22-5/24	Washington DC Meetings with Congressional Members from Oregon and Washington as well as Build America Bureau and USDOT

<i>5/25</i>	<i>Coordination Meeting with CRITFC on Geotech Borings</i>
<i>5/25</i>	<i>Consultant Project Briefing with Parsons</i>
<i>5/25</i>	<i>Cultural Resources/NEPA Meeting with FHWA/ODOT/WSP</i>