



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, December 12, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Port of Hood River – 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: Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County.

Staff/Consultants: Kevin Greenwood (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Jessica Pickul, JLA; Kary Witt, HNTB; Alice Hodge, JLA; Brad Boswell, Boswell Consulting; Paul Huston, HNTB.

Guests: Sam Hunaidi, ODOT; Jennifer Euwer; Carl See, WSTC.

Welcome

Michael Shannon called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) minutes for November 14 were approved by consensus. Shannon clarified that the packet incorrectly states that COWI is a contractor and should be listed as a design firm.

Review of Previous Action Items

Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, reported that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has submitted the Biological Opinion (BiOp) to the design and technical team for review. Shannon has requested that an ODOT representative attend the January 9 meeting for an update on the BiOp.

The Bi-State Bridge Commission (BSBC) survey went out to help determine the primary place of business. The survey ends January 19, and the results and recommendation will be provided to the BSWG.

The Commission Formation Agreement (CFA) is still under review. The Port of Hood River (“Port”) Commission will be having a meeting on December 13 to review the CFA. Currently there are no major changes to the CFA from Klickitat and Hood River County.

Shannon reported that the Treaty MOAs have been sent to ODOT and ODOT is preparing to send it to Yakama Nation this week. The drafts for Nez Perce and Umatilla will be sent to ODOT this week and reviewed by the tribes by early next year. Commissioner Fox suggested a schedule for each tribe.

Shannon turned to Brian Munoz, HNTB, for a brief overview of the Grant Dashboard. The Dashboard provides a summary of reimbursement and remaining funding in each grant.

Informational Items

- a. **Update on the DC Trip** – Mayor Marla Keethler noted that all meetings were very productive and believes that the funding will be going to shovel-ready projects that will deliver. Mayor Keethler added that not having the EIS brings some hesitation to the project. Commissioner Jake Anderson commented that there was interest in knowing when Oregon would step up to the plate, and the cost benefit analysis was also emphasized. Commissioner Fox noted that everyone at DC was already familiar with the project and added that the TIFIA loan team is ready to work with the Port once the letter of intent is submitted.
- b. **Grant Status** – Shannon reported that they are preparing to submit a RAISE grant in February 2023. There is a maximum limit of \$25 million.
- c. **RMBC** – Geotech is continuing to advance and is working through the permitting process. The land borings are expected to begin in January 2023. Commissioner Fox requested a Geotech and preliminary engineering schedule.
- d. **Communications Update** – Alice Hodge, JLA, presented the new Bridge Replacement logo. There was consensus from BSWG to move forward with the new logo. Hodge noted that the Bridge Replacement website is expected to go live the first week in January.

WSTC Update Presentation on Traffic and Revenue Study

Carl See, Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC), provided a brief update on the Traffic and Revenue Study. The study will include a passenger car stated preference survey that is currently in process and will end on December 15. Interviews are also being conducted with local freight shippers.

See noted that the Port anticipates that the pre-completion tolling revenues from a toll increase on the current bridge would be dedicated to the replacement bridge project as soon as July 1, 2023. Post-completion tolling revenues beginning in Fiscal Year 2031 would be dedicated to funding debt service as well as on-going operations & maintenance and repair & replacement costs.

See provided a brief overview of the tolling scenarios. The preliminary scenarios will be presented in a public meeting on December 13.

Project Delivery Method Recommendation

Paul Huston, HNTB, provided a summary of the Delivery Method Evaluations. The recommendation is Progressive Design-Build delivery method. This is based on the factors evaluated and weighted, feedback from the industry, and understanding of where the project is in the funding and development phasing. Next steps to implement the recommended delivery method is to finalize funding and tolling plans and establish a procurement plan. The BSWG consensus was to continue the delivery method discussion on January 9.

New Action Items

- a. MOA schedule for each tribe.
- b. Geotechnical and preliminary engineering schedule.
- c. Continue delivery method discussion on January 9 BSWG meeting.

Adjourn

Next meeting is on January 9. Commissioner Anderson thanked Mayor Kate McBride for the time and effort she has put in to the BSWG.

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