



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, May 1, 2023 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 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; Paul Blackburn (Mayor), City of Hood River; Arthur Babitz (Commissioner), Hood River County; Marla Keethler (Mayor), City of White Salmon; Catherine Kiewit (Mayor), City of Bingen.

Alternates: None

Staff/Consultants: Michael Shannon (Project Manager), HNTB; Brian Munoz, HNTB; Debbie Smith-Wagar (Finance Director), Port of Hood River; Kary Witt, HNTB; Kevin Greenwood (Executive Director), Port of Hood River; Stacy Zurcher, JLA; Jessica Pickul, JLA; Ben Sheppard, (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; Anna Marum, JLA; Seongah Hong, HNTB; Chris Kopp, HNTB.

Guests: Kelly O’Grady-Smith; Tamara Schurian; Brad Guilmino; Giridhar Reddy; Abigail Elder, City of Hood River. Denis Reich, ODOT; Rob Watlman; Mary Francoeur; George Lu; Matt Ransom, RTC; Nathan Villeneuve; Jennifer Euwer, (Commissioner) Hood River County.

Commission Formation Agreement (CFA)

The meeting commenced at 2:05 p.m. All members signed the CFA. Setting the effective date of May 1, 2023.

Approval of Minutes

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) minutes for April 3, 2023 were approved by consensus.

Review Action Items

Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, reported that Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided additional comments on the Biological Assessment (BA) and WSP submitted a response. Shannon is confirming if these are the final comments from ODOT.

Informational Items

- a. **Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority (HRWSBA)** –The CFA is complete, and all documents have been received. The Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority (HRWSBA) will go into effect July 1, 2023. There are approximately 60 days for the nomination and appointment process prior to July 1. Shannon added that they are working on a list of tasks for the HRWSBA.

- b. **Funding Finance & Tolling** – Shannon turned to Chris Kopp, HNTB, for a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) update. Kopp briefly summarized the BCA Improvement Plan and presented the draft results. The draft results indicate a 1.64 Benefit/Cost Ratio. A discussion ensued regarding the bridge closure assumptions. Kopp discussed next steps that included finalizing the Benefit/Cost Ratio, and finalizing the BCA in coordination with the Narrative Team. Commissioner Fox suggested contacting the engineer on whether the expenditure date would change if the current bridge was not replaced.
- c. **GR Update** – Shannon reported that the Washington legislative session is complete. Legislatures have proposed to fund \$15 million in the 23-25 biennium, \$30 million in the 27-29 biennium and \$44 million as future funding. Shannon requested feedback from BSWG for their availability to attend a meeting in Salem, Oregon. The BSWG has availability on May 10. The Washington D.C. trip is scheduled for the week of May 22.
- d. **Funding Finance & Tolling** – HNTB is preparing for the next significant grant submittal which is the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG). The Raise Planning Grant was submitted, and no responses have been received. Shannon added that the DOL Building Pathways grant highly recommends a match of 30-40% and asked that the BSWG consider whether they would still like to proceed with this grant.
- e. **Project Dashboard** – Brian Munoz, HNTB, provided a brief overview of the budget and schedule.
- f. **Treaty Memorandum of Agreement's (MOA's)** – Shannon noted that a second draft of the MOA was submitted to Umatilla, and they are coordinating their next meeting with them as well. A second meeting has been scheduled for June 6 with the Nez Perce Tribe, and they are waiting for comments from Yakama Nation. HNTB is also working on setting up a second meeting with the Warm Springs Tribe.
- g. **RBMC** – Shannon commented that they are working through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Progressive Design Build procurement. A draft RFP should be ready by June or August.
- h. **NEPA/FEIS/ROD** – Shannon noted that there is a recommendation to the Port Commission in the packet for an amendment with ODOT for Consultation Services. The amendment includes 1,294 hours of additional work totaling \$129,400 with a total contract amount of \$536,782. Mayor Marla Keethler requested an itemized invoice from ODOT, and Commissioner Fox requested a monthly assessment of completed tasks as well. There was BSWG consensus to move forward with a 50% reduction of contract, and Shannon will follow up with ODOT for an alternative way to scope and contract.

New Action Items

- a. Contact engineer for expenditure date if current bridge is not replaced.
- b. Proceed with 50% contract reduction and follow up with ODOT for an alternative way to scope and contract.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

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