



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bi-State Working Group Meeting Summary

Monday, January 9, 2023 | 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. Paul Blackburn (Mayor), City of Hood River.

Alternates: Kristi Chapman (Commissioner), Port of Hood River; 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; Paul Huston, HNTB; Brian Munoz, HNTB; Steve Siegel, Siegel Consulting.

Guests: Abigail Elder, City of Hood River; Steve Howe; Rick Krebs; Drew Clark.

Welcome

Michael Shannon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) minutes for December 12 were approved by consensus.

Review of Previous Action Items

Michael Shannon, HNTB Project Manager, reported that Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) had received information on a recent project that caused them to re-look at some of the information provided on the Bridge Replacement project. HNTB is addressing ODOT's concerns.

Informational Items

- a. **Gorge-ous Night** – Shannon noted that Gorge-ous Night will be on February 7 and 8 in Olympia, Washington, and February 15 in Salem, Oregon. Meetings have been scheduled with Senator Curtis King, Senator Marko Liias, and Representative Andrew Barkis. Gorge-ous Night is an evening event that is hosted by the legislator representing the region. The event provides the opportunity to network. The Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) members were encouraged to attend.
- b. **Bi-State Bridge Commission (BSBC) Name** – Mayor Catherine Kiewit summarized the results for the new name of the BSBC. The name with the highest votes was Hood River-White Salmon Bridge

Authority. BSWG consensus was to name the new BSBC, Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority.

- c. **Local Appointments** – Local government nominations and appointments process is under discussion in Hood River County and Klickitat County. Commissioner Arthur Babitz commented that Hood River County is currently revising their resolution for local appointments. Commissioner Jake Anderson noted that Klickitat County will wait to review Hood River County’s resolution.

Commissioner Fox provided a document that summarizes the new Bridge Authority. The document defines success and explains the first phase as well as managing the Bridge Authority through the life of the bridge. The document also discusses the type of experience needed for a well-balanced team. Commissioner Fox is seeking consensus to use this document as informational guidance for both counties. Mayor Marla Keethler expressed her concern that the new Bridge Authority will change what the BSWG has already worked through. A discussion ensued regarding Mayor Keethler’s concern.

- d. **Primary Place of Business (PPB)** – Alice Hodge, JLA, summarized the results of the survey that was conducted to help determine the PPB. A total of 1,925 responses were received and 556 comments were submitted. The clear preference is to locate the PPB in Hood River. Hodge’s is seeking a final recommendation. The BSWG concluded that further discussion will need to take place at their next meeting. The BSWG also requested a copy of the memo that reviews the Public Utility Tax.
- e. **Project Delivery Method** – Paul Huston, HNTB, provided a brief overview of the Delivery Method Evaluations. Based on the evaluation Progressive Design Build (PDB) is the most advantageous method for this project. Huston turned to Steve Howe, HNTB, for a brief overview of PDB. Howe noted that PDB is a type of contract where you hire a designer and contractor that are on the same team. The advantage of this method is that the designer will package the project in a way that makes use of the funding, and the contractor will build each of those packages individually. There was BSWG consensus to recommend Progressive Design Build method to the Port Commission for approval.
- f. **Grant Status** – Shannon reported that they did not receive any grants that they applied for in 2023. They did, however, receive comments that they will be addressing. HNTB will provide a full summary of the comments before the next meeting. Shannon noted that there is another funding opportunity through the Raise Planning Grant. The application is due February 28 and the asking amount will be for \$5 million. The application will focus on a planning grant that will evaluate bike and pedestrian connections and transit services to the new bridge. A handout was provided that summarizes the grant reimbursements.
- g. **Treaty MOA’s** – Shannon commented that a revised draft of the Yakama MOA was submitted to ODOT for submittal to Yakama. A draft MOA for Umatilla is underway using the Yakama MOA as a template. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has sent the draft letter to Warm Springs requesting government to government consultation on the MOA. A Treaty MOA Development Summary Schedule is included in the packet.
- h. **RBMC** – Shannon noted that the packet includes a Geotechnical Subsurface Explorations Schedule and provided a brief overview. The schedule will start on February 6. A Survey and Mapping Summary Schedule was also provided in the packet.

- i. **HNTB Amendment 2** – Kevin Greenwood, Executive Director, commented that Amendment 2 proposes additional work that includes an increase in marketing and communication, financing modeling, grant writing and technical review, and increased environmental coordination with tribes/agencies. Greenwood added that Arup was hired to provide a peer review of the proposal, and a copy of Arup’s memo is included in the packet. There was BSWG consensus to recommend Amendment 2 to the Port Commission for approval.

New Action Items

- a. Further discussion on PPB at the next BSWG meeting.
- b. Resend copy of Public Utility tax memo to BSWG.

Adjourn

Shannon noted that the NEPA/FEIS presentation has been deferred to the next BSWG meeting. Next meeting is on January 23. The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

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