



SR-35 Columbia River Bridge Feasibility Study

PROJECT UPDATE

JUNE 1999

Spring Open House Input

Those in attendance at the Spring Open House identified study needs and expected outcomes. The results of the group's straw poll ranking of the most critical of these items are listed below.

- Best location for a new bridge-15
- Logical entity to operate a new bridge-15
- Alternate transportation methods-14
- Make it part of Fed Hwy System-10
- Adequate width-10
- Traffic flow projections-8
- Financing methods/options-7
- Life expectancy/ life span of bridge-6
- Growth projections/modeling-5
- Noise minimization-4
- Obsolete design/commercial use-4
- Interim-what to do with bridge-3
- Consider aesthetics-3
- Accountability of input/decision-making-3
- Economic benefits of free bridge-3
- Tunnel or other options-2
- Most cost effective way of making the change-1
- Language barriers/translator-1
- Impacts to barge traffic/river-1
- Cost to replace bridge-1
- Cost of intersection/change-1
- Growth of tourism-0

Input from the Open House formed the basis of the detailed workplan now being developed for the Feasibility Study.

Problem Summary & Development Process

The SR-35 Columbia River Bridge Feasibility Study is the result of a local grass roots effort by a wide range of individuals who are interested in the near and distant future of the White Salmon, Bingen and Hood River region. This Purpose and Need Statement has been developed through a collaborative public and stakeholder process.

Vision Statement

Preserve the natural beauty of the Columbia River Gorge with a new or improved bridge that supports the region's diverse economy and provides safe travel capacity for automobiles, trucks, recreation vehicles, river traffic, pedestrians and bicycles.

Mission Statement

The SR-35 Columbia River Crossing Feasibility Study will provide information concerning the operation and maintenance needs necessary for the current bridge by drawing upon existing studies and information. The study will also provide improvement alternatives to build consensus on an implementation approach that will ensure a suitable Columbia River crossing for the 21st century.



Purpose & Need Statement

Problems and needs associated with the existing bridge identified by the public include:

- the lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities,
- structural adequacy of the existing bridge,
- adequate maintenance, long lines accessing the bridge,
- narrow travel lanes,
- financial hardships and fairness of paying a toll, and
- uncertainty of the remaining service life.

In order to address these problems and needs, the feasibility study will address the following general categories: 1) Address perceived problems with the adequacy, operation and maintenance of the existing bridge for the short-term, and 2) Analyze impacts and find solutions to provide a cross-river transportation link for the long-term.

Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the feasibility study are: 1) an increased understanding of the current and future river crossing conditions and needs, 2) agreement on short term status and recommendations and

3) local consensus and momentum to work toward long term crossing solutions. The feasibility study will be implemented in phases with each phase containing clearly defined decision criteria on whether or not to proceed with the next phase.

Project Schedule

February 1999	Scoping Phase Kick-off
March 1999	Stakeholder Interviews & Open House
May 1999	Purpose & Needs Statement
June 1999	Project Update Newsletter
July 1999	Scope of Work
January 2000	Feasibility Study Kick-off

Keep Informed

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