

Port mulls Hood River bridge plans

By Gail Oberst
For Columbia Gorge News

Port of Hood River's Board of Commissioners June 1 considered renewing a three-year contract with Kevin Greenwood, the Hood River-White Salmon bridge replacement project director since 2018 (results unavailable by press time).

Commissioners May 18 considered a recommendation to extend Greenwood's contract. Greenwood's preliminary work during the first three years of his contract has been excellent, said the commissioners. "I have great confidence in Kevin. He's excellent at what he's done," said Commissioner Kristi Chapman.

In his update on bridge funding, Greenwood listed more than \$230 million in potential outside bridge funding from a patchwork of sources including federal transportation FAST Act reauthorization and Build Back Better proposals, as well as funding from Olympia and Salem — Washington State has set aside \$140 million for its share of the bridge, but its allocation depends on increases in revenues.

"We continue to lobby for additional planning resources while preparing for a large transportation package for construction," Greenwood said.

Estimates to remove and replace the century-old bridge are at \$400 million. Environmental impact studies began three years ago with a \$5 million Oregon transportation grant for planning and environmental testing, of which \$600,000 remains. The environmental

work will be completed this fall. Another \$10 million is coming from the Washington State Legislature and federal transportation BUILD funds. The Port of Hood River has also committed \$1.25 million to the project.

Greenwood is a limited-duration full-time port employee whose salary is funded by grants.

Costs for the bridge not covered by outside funds will be repaid by bonds insured against tolls on the bridge.

Environmental impact studies, community input, tests and engineering reports will wrap up this fall, shoring up more solid requests for other outside funding. Greenwood for the past three years has coordinated that work by consultants and staff from the port, Oregon and Washington states departments of transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, Klickitat County and other agencies.

Chapman was upbeat about the port's partnership with cities and other entities in Washington State as partners in the Bi-State Working Group. The group will play a major role in bridge management in the future, according to port staff. A report to the Bi-State Working Group on how to keep those tolls low is online at youtu.be/NIROIC2z2fE.

Bridge update

What's happening next with the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge replacement? In his report in May, Greenwood detailed plans to the Port of Hood River Board of Commissioners, much of which, including formation of



The lift span of the Hood River bridge is lit by a beam of sun Thursday, May 27. Plans for replacement of the bridge continue.

Mark B. Gibson photo

the Bi-State Bridge Compact, are already underway. The Compact brings together leaders from groups on both sides of the bridge impacted by the replacement.

According to Greenwood's report, Phase 2, estimated to cost \$16.25 million from 2021 to 2023, lays the groundwork for the project's development and governance. Phase 3, the pre-construction phase,

is tentatively set for 2023 through 2026. Phase 4 is the construction phase, tentatively set to begin in 2026.

Details in the report are:
Phase 2 (2021-23)
■ Establish the Bi-State Authority
■ Complete 30 percent of the estimated engineering
■ Complete traffic and toll revenue study
■ Establish a preliminary

financial plan
■ Evaluate public and private partnerships and project delivery
Phase 3 (2023-26)
■ Complete 60 percent of the estimated engineering and designs
■ Evaluate governance options
■ Complete grant and loan applications
■ Award pre-construction

contracts
■ Complete study and establish new toll structure
■ Acquire rights of way
Phase 4 (2026)
■ Construction begins.



Annie Jr., a children's play based on the comic strip Little Orphan Annie, will be performed at The Dalles Civic Auditorium beginning June 18. Contributed photo

Annie Jr. staged at Civic

Performances in The Dalles June 18-19, 25 and 27

The Dalles Civic Auditorium Children's Theater will present the children's play "Annie Jr." at The Dalles Civic Auditorium June 18-19 and June 25 at 7 p.m., and June 27 as a 2 p.m. matinee.

"Annie Jr." is a Broadway musical based upon the newspaper comic strip "Little Orphan Annie" of the 1920s.

Under the direction of Gail Farris, Nancy Moon and numerous other volunteers,

31 children from the communities of Dallesport, Dufur, Mosier and The Dalles have been memorizing lines, music and choreography since April 1.

So what is the message of this musical? Life is difficult, but "the sun will come out tomorrow" to an improved life for those who remain optimistic.

"This moral we are reminded of everyday, but often life's occurrences, like COVID-19, make it exceedingly difficult to be hopeful," said a press release. "This is why 'Annie Jr.' is a timeless musical for all ages."

"Annie Jr." is presented through special arrangement and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, N.Y.

Tickets are available at Klindt's Booksellers in The Dalles, online at TheDallesCivic.org, and at the door. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children under 12.

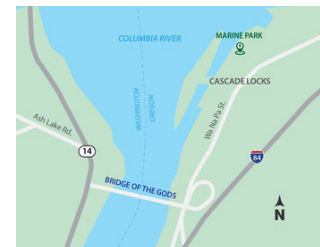
"Dallesport Elementary, under the direction of Farris and Moon, presented 'Annie Jr.' about 10 years ago, and it was a smash hit," said a press release. "(This is) a wonderful musical for the whole family."

Marine Park Trail input sought

The Port of Cascade Locks and Oregon Department of Transportation are planning for a future bike and pedestrian path network within Marine Park that will be accessible for everyone.

A survey is now available on the project website through June 11 to gather community input on values and uses for Marine Park at www.oregon.gov/odot/projects/pages/project-details.aspx?project=14710.

Port Commission President Jess Groves said, "This is a great opportunity to plan for the future of Marine Park and I am excited to hear the community's thoughts on this project."



Graphic courtesy of ODOT

This planning-level project should be completed by early 2022 and includes understanding the construction costs, environmental and cultural implications of building the trail, and understand any other risks tied to construction. Funding for the trail construction has not been

identified, but the Port of Cascade Locks is developing a funding strategy.

More information will be shared online as the project continues.

This project expands on a previous project that examined a new entrance into Marine Park from WaNaPa Street that would allow people walking, biking or using mobility devices to safely cross the railroad tracks and enter the park.


For more information on that completed project, visit portofcascadelocks.org/marine-park-entrance.

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