

# 2023 Equity, Policy, Planning, Freight & Economic Analysis Expert Task Group (EPPFEA-ETG)

Member Name	Division/Section	Title
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## Research Priorities

This statewide ETG reviews research problem statements related to areas of equity, transportation policy, planning, freight, and economic analysis. *The annual deadline for submissions is November 15<sup>th</sup>.*

The following sections identify potential areas of research this ETG is likely to evaluate for funding, broadly (these examples of topics are not exhaustive):

### Freight

- **Safety:** truck-rail-marine-air safety, interaction/conflict with non-freight modes,
- **Freight Logistics:** intermodal facilities, warehousing, first/last mile, emerging modes (micro-freight), supply chains, block-chains, industry trends.
- **New Technology:** shared freight transportation (i.e. using transit to haul packages), emerging tech.
- **System Reliability and Redundancy:** benefit cost analysis for freight users, return on investment to freight users, freight capacity across modes, freight bottlenecks, commodity flow, freight movement by industry, modal system performance metrics.
- **Maritime/Ports:** rail and terminal operations, aviation, highway Ports of Entry, intermodal efficiencies.
- **Performance Metrics:** development of new performance measures, evaluation of emerging data sources.

### Economics

- **Transportation Finance:** innovative analysis methods, development of new data sources, explore new revenue opportunities such as tolling, fees, cost effectiveness.
- **New Technologies:** explore potential impacts of technology to agency costs, evaluate emerging data sources, identify impacts on system user costs and agency costs.
- **Performance Measures:** return on investment, benefit cost methods, impacts of regulations and policy, equity analysis, system performance monitoring.
- **Forecast Methods:** improved methods of spatial forecasting for population, employment, residential housing, businesses by industry, methods to address risk and uncertainty.

## Equity

- **Performance Metrics:** Moving the needle on Transportation Equity of historically underserved and vulnerable people. How do we measure equity, meaningfully, to monitor change? Are areas of equity improving or regressing?
- **Diversity & Inclusion:** in public comments and other areas where diverse public buy-in is vital to success, e.g. possibly working with communications in developing public messaging strategies that impact the Oregon public at-large as well as specific communities.
- **Accessibility:** ADA and other needed drivers of inclusivity in Transportation modalities
- **Equity Planning & Restorative Parity Initiative Research:** Improved Transportation Outcomes for underserved, vulnerable populations of people, e.g. BIPOC, Rural, Low-Income.
- **Developing Meaningful Equity Definitions, Measures/ Metrics, Methods, And In Context:** relevant to transportation sectors (research related to equity), especially for BIPOC and Low-Income people who have been historically underserved.

## Policy Analysis

- **Evaluating Distinct & Specific Transportation Policies and their Implications in Practical Application**, e.g. Tolling (how messaging, communications, and/ or equity implications fit into this area/ aspect)
  - Understanding the current state of specific policies
  - Problem Detection (e.g. possible disparities)
  - Design Intervention(s) for the problem to mitigate or “resolve” gaps in services or other aspects needing attention
  - Closing the Loop: Intervention Analysis (did the intervention do what it set out to do?) Evaluation/ Assessment
- **Financial and Budgetary Policies:** CBA, diversifying revenue streams, highway cost allocation, Freight trucks potentially overpaying (taxing twice or overly), Fees vs. Taxes, other areas of concern or remodeling, CFR, State Policies, internal or external policies
- **Maintenance & Policy:** Studded Tires, “long pothole” creators, Policy example: How to monetize or quantify road damage? Develop fee to cover maintenance costs of roads, if feasible.

## Planning Analysis

- **Transportation Planning:** Planning in the face of uncertainty: financial, political, regulatory, disaster events, GHGE, climate change—how do we do planning around uncertainty?
- **Financial Planning:** Prioritizing ODOT investments strategically, given limited resources.
- **Strategic Planning & Project Management:** OTP Pavement objectives and action items: How are you implementing the plan? Mission example—understand how rubber meets the road in terms of planning implementation, including monitoring and reporting progress on projects.
- **Planning for the Future:** innovation; tackling large, wicked problems, unpredictable problems, e.g. wildfires, Critical Incident Management (CIM), increasingly inclement or extreme weather events, and/ or systems disruptions.

## This EPPFEA-ETG will consider the following criteria when evaluating problem statements:

1. Does the research problem statement address a problem, issue, or need that ODOT has?
2. If the research idea is funded, can it be implemented by someone in ODOT?
3. **Overarchingly, what is the value of the research to ODOT or to the Oregon public?**

Please contact the ETG Research Coordinator (Matt Bagwell) listed above for more info or guidance on submitting a problem statement proposal. email: [Matt.T.BAGWELL@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:Matt.T.BAGWELL@odot.oregon.gov) | Ph: 503.983.1062