



OTIA Bridge Unit: unpacked and ready to go

Boxes and acronyms abound on Cottage Street in Salem as the newly formed OTIA Bridge Delivery Unit completes its office setup. On April 7, OBDU took occupancy of the space it will share with Oregon Bridge Delivery Partners.

OBDP is the private sector consortium that won the contract to design, manage and deliver ODOT's OTIA State Bridge Delivery Program. OBDP also will have offices on Union Street.

"It's an exciting time," said Mike Wolfe, Statewide Project Delivery manager. The Office of Project Delivery is comprised of three legs: the Project Delivery Unit, the Alternative Delivery Unit, and the recently added OTIA Bridge Delivery Unit.

"I'm impressed with how quickly OBDU and OBDP are integrating, the level of professionalism and willingness everyone is showing — there are tight deadlines and high expectations."

To meet the job-stimulus goals of OTIA, the department has taken an innovative, outsourcing approach to getting its work done. Together, the public-private partnership will repair or replace the approximately 360 aging bridges throughout the state. This huge task will be accomplished in five stages during the next eight years.

The executive staff of OBDU and OBDP met together for the first time in one room on April 23. The meeting marked the beginning of a new relationship between state government and the private sector, and launched the task of connecting the dots between public and private counterparts to forge a complementary working team.

Beside introductions, organizational charts and software interface issues, the group reviewed a draft of what the OBDP is to deliver. The first work order contract for the partners calls for the development of a program management plan within 90 days. The plan will describe the mission, goals, people, responsibilities, communication and reporting for OBDP to deliver the OTIA program for the department and its stakeholders.

"I'm really pleased how quickly OBDP has come on board and begun to move the program forward," said OBDU Manager Heather Catron.

She appreciates the extra hands, heads and resources as she continues the process of filling key roles within the unit. To date, about half of the unit positions have been hired and the remaining staffing should be complete by the end of the year.

For his part, Michael Hatchell, OBDP manager said, "We're delighted to be an extension of the ODOT staff, and look forward to the next eight years."

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Written by [Lissa Willis-Stokes](#), OBDU public involvement/information representative.



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