

CAPITALIZING ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is allocated \$1.3 billion to repair or replace hundreds of aging highway bridges. ODOT continues to seek opportunities to leverage these funds.

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds are repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges, paving and maintaining city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to Oregon's highway system, and removing freight bottlenecks statewide. Based on 2008 dollars, about 14 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the remainder of the OTIA program, we estimate that construction projects will sustain an average of 4,100 family-wage jobs.

Funding bridge repairs and more

- OTIA III, the third Oregon Transportation Investment Act, uses revenues from increased motor vehicle and trucking fees to finance \$2.46 billion in transportation projects. It builds on OTIA I and II, which provide a combined \$500 million in bonds for projects throughout the state.
- OTIA III allocates \$1.3 billion to repair or replace aging highway bridges and an additional \$1.16 billion to maintain and modernize local and state roads. Here is the breakdown:
 - › \$1.3 billion in bonds to repair or replace aging state highway bridges
 - › \$300 million in bonds to repair or replace aging local bridges
 - › \$361 million for county and city highway maintenance
 - › \$500 million for highway modernization work statewide

Stretching the budget

- Grouping, or “bundling,” the bridge projects along travel corridors maximizes the bridge program’s budget by achieving economies of scale for design and construction contractors.
- An ODOT goal is to leverage bridge program funds to do more work without spending more state Highway Fund dollars. For example, the bridge program secured a \$1 million Highways for Life grant from the Federal Highway Administration, which funds “innovative approaches to building highways safer, longer-lasting, faster and at a lower cost,” for its use of rapid replacement on two Oregon 38 bridges in Elkton.
- ODOT has asked Congress to help fund some of the bridge repair and replacement work because most of the aging bridges are on Interstates 5 and 84, which are key federal highways. The bridge program secured \$8.8 million in federal funding for design aesthetics on Bundle 220, I-5: Willamette River Bridge, under the Projects of National and Regional Significance Program established within the SAFETEA-LU funding package.

