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Transportation Enhancement Program awards funds for 14 new projects

Projects strengthen Oregon's cultural, aesthetic and environmental value

Oregonians will soon be able to take advantage of new sidewalk, bike path and streetscape projects and use restored railroad depots and other historic buildings along Oregon highways. The Oregon Transportation Commission has approved \$11.3 million in Transportation Enhancement funding for 14 new projects throughout Oregon (*see attached list*). There were originally 75 applications requesting more than \$64 million. The Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee, chaired by Oregon Transportation Commission member Michael Nelson, selected the winning projects. These projects will become part of Oregon's 2008-2011 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and will be scheduled for construction in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

ODOT's Transportation Enhancement program provides federal funds for projects strengthening the cultural, aesthetic and environmental value of Oregon's transportation system. Since 1992, the program has helped more than 150 Oregon communities, their citizens and visitors.

Transportation enhancement projects are selected through a competitive process based on written application and field review. Recipients must supply matching funds to cover at least 10.27% of the project cost. Half the applicants awarded funds this year are investing substantially more than the minimum matching share. Nine projects directly support tourism or economic development. And nine projects are located in economically distressed areas identified by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

More information about the Transportation Enhancement Program is online at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/LGS>.

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Transportation Enhancement activities

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
4. Scenic or historic highway programs (including tourist and welcome center facilities)
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification
6. Historic preservation
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including conversion to pedestrian or bicycle trails)
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising
10. Archaeological planning and research
11. Mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
12. Establishment of transportation museums

ODOT