

Chapter 1. General Organization

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1.100 Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC)

It is the function of the Oregon Transportation Commission to establish policies for the operation of the Department of Transportation. The five-member Commission, which is appointed by the Governor, has the responsibility to coordinate and administer programs relating to highways, motor vehicles, public transit, and such other programs related to transportation as may be assigned by law to the Department. The OTC retains the authority for approving acquisitions of real property and through resolution directs the State Right of Way Manager to take all actions necessary to complete the acquisitions.

1.110 Oregon Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation was created by the legislature and has adopted the mission statement, "To provide a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians." The major divisions of the Department are Central Services, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services, Highway, Motor Carrier Transportation, Public Transit, Rail, Transportation Development, and Transportation Safety.

1.120 Director of Transportation

The Director of Transportation, appointed by the Governor, serves as chief administrative officer for the Department.

The Director is responsible to the Commission for coordinating ODOT programs with other public agencies and the private sector, such as the Public Utility Commission and transit districts; railroads, airlines, intercity bus companies, and trucking interests; and the general public.

Primary duties include: setting priorities for a balanced development of transportation programs to achieve an equitable allocation of resources; planning for future operations; establishing managerial controls to carry out policies adopted by the Commission; and representing Oregon's interests on transportation issues in Congress and the State Legislature.

1.130 Highway Division

The Highway Division Administrator manages the Highway Division. The Highway Division consists of 5 Region offices and associated Technical Centers, Highway Finance, Office of Project Delivery, Office of Innovative Partnerships, Local Governments Office, Statewide Maintenance, and Technical Services.

The Highway Division is responsible for the construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of the system of state highways, bridges, and bicycle paths.

1.140 Technical Services Branch

The Technical Services Branch Manager administers the Technical Service Branch of the Highway Division. Technical Services consists of six sections: Bridge Engineering, Construction, Geo-Environmental, Right of Way, Roadway Engineering, Traffic Engineering and Operations; and two offices: Branch Operations and Access Management.

The Technical Services Branch is responsible for technical leadership of the state transportation system. To carry out this responsibility, the Branch provides long term strategic management of the state highway system by:

1. Maintaining an inventory of transportation infrastructure assets, such as bridges, culverts, pavement, guard rails and other assets and using this information to analyze and plan for the present and future needs of the system.
2. Providing technical training and on-going development through formal courses, mentoring, and other technical tools, such as up-to-date manuals, policies, guidelines, and checklists. These tools are effective for local governments and contractors, as well as ODOT's technical staff.
3. Incorporating continuous learning about best practices by learning what ODOT and its providers do best and what can be improved, and sharing this information with all of ODOT and its providers, including regions and contractors.
4. Providing leadership regarding best technical practices in discipline specific areas for the Department through research, attending national conferences, and participation in discipline specific trade organizations.
5. Establishing regular communication links between Technical Services and Region Technical Centers with the Technical Leadership Committee and other Discipline Specific leadership teams.
6. Conducting Quality Assurance reviews of selected projects to monitor the Department's overall project delivery program.

In addition, the Branch is responsible for special statewide programs that include:

1. Controlling access to state highways.
2. Overseeing the occupancy of highway rights of way by utilities.
3. Controlling outdoor advertising signs along state highways.