

INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY AND ODOT'S SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

What is sustainability?

- **Definition:** Meeting the needs of this generation in a way that allows for future generations to meet their needs.
- **Drivers:** Inefficient use of limited natural resources, environmental degradation, population growth, social inequity.
- **Goal:** Best value for citizens and environment over the long term.
- **Considerations:** A balance of economic, environmental and community concerns.

Ways to incorporate sustainability:

- Reduce demand for raw material and energy.
- Eliminate material and energy waste.
- Incorporate the life cycle costs of a system/facility, and consider the costs of off-site impacts.
- Protect and conserve the natural environment.
- Design for low maintenance and durability.

Oregon sustainability directives:

- **EO-00-07** (2000) – promotes sustainability in state government, provides practices for DAS.
- **ORS 184.421** (2001 Oregon Sustainability Act) – gives 10 objectives for agency internal operations, 10 objectives for supporting sustainable communities, and creates Oregon Sustainability Board.
- **EO-03-03** (2003) – supports Oregon Sustainability Act and directs 20 agencies to designate sustainability coordinator and write sustainability plans.
- **EO-06-02** (2006) – incorporates obligations of previous EO's and rescinds them; adds additional requirements for state agencies; reauthorizes and provides direction to the Oregon Sustainability Board.

How does this relate to ODOT? – Transportation's role in sustainability:

- **Economic:**
 - Freight mobility and cost of congestion.
 - Providing citizens access to employment and other essential services.
- **Social:**
 - Highways that contribute to community livability.
 - Land use planning/transportation interactions.
 - Human health.
- **Environmental:**
 - Climate change (1/3 of greenhouse gasses are from transportation).
 - Impact on wildlife and habitat.
 - Air and water pollution.
- **Safety:**
 - A system that kills and injures its users does not meet the goals of sustainability.

ODOT's Sustainability Program will:

- Be integrated into existing policies and practices.
- Address both internal activities and external goods/services delivered.
- Relate to all divisions within ODOT, not just highway.
- Build on existing successes.