

Update on Oregon's Mosaic: Value and Cost Informed Planning

(Formerly "Least Cost Planning")

In Oregon, we are thoughtful about the underlying issues and tradeoffs in transportation decision-making. We use planning tools and decision processes including travel demand models, multimodal level of service analysis, scenario planning, and cost/benefit studies, to help us make the best decisions. However, sound policy and resource allocation decisions are becoming increasingly complicated as decision-makers need to make the right decisions for all modes in the context of a growing list of transportation needs, diminishing funding levels, and changing societal values.

Mosaic is an Excel spreadsheet-based tool that considers supply and demand focused transportation actions, incorporates monetized and non-monetized indicators, and allows a range of projects and programs to be considered. Mosaic improves our ability to clearly and transparently measure the true costs and benefits of transportation strategies and actions. In doing so, it increases transparency and the diversity of information considered in transportation decision making in our state. More importantly, it will help provide a more accurate assessment of potential benefits relative to costs and impacts in a way that is consistent and easy to analyze.

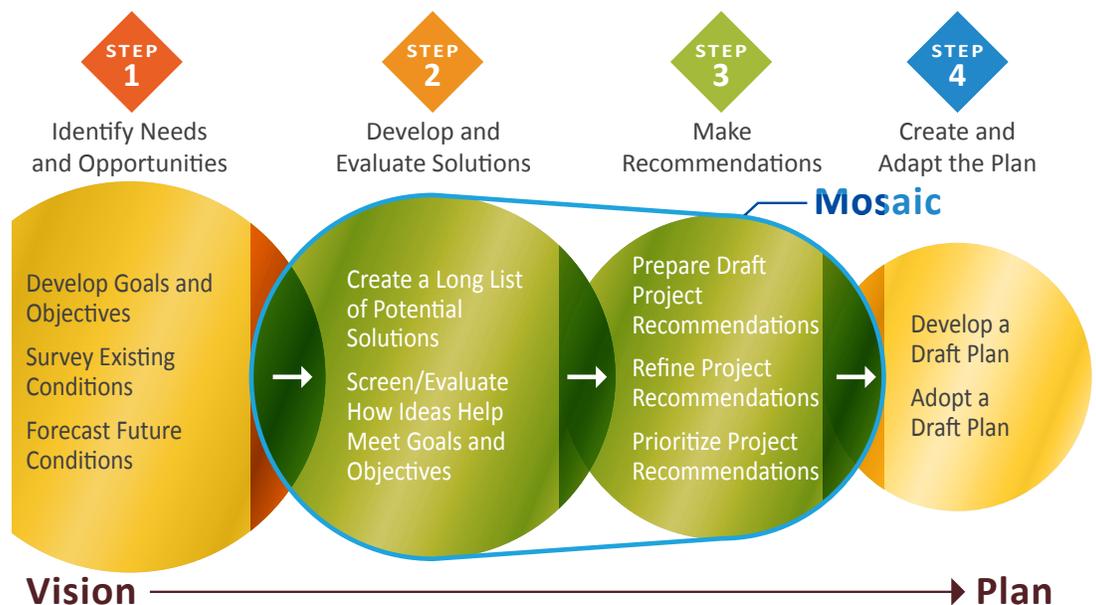
A wide range of stakeholders helped develop Mosaic. The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Stakeholder Committee (SSC), technical teams with members from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and other agencies, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) participated in the development process.

The Mosaic tool is designed to assist with the development and evaluation of solutions within a planning process, as shown in the diagram at right. It helps transportation planners and decision makers monetize, evaluate, and compare the social, environmental, and economic effects (both costs and benefits) of transportation investments in ways that make tradeoffs among bundles more explicit. Mosaic does not dictate decisions or provide one solution.

LEAST COST PLANNING HAS A NEW NAME...

*Mosaic:
Value and Cost
Informed Planning*

Stakeholders told us that least cost planning as a name was confusing and didn't reflect the intent of Oregon's tool. The new name is designed to reflect both the values imbedded in the tool – that the sum is greater than its parts – and the unique nature of its end result.



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Mosaic is Ready for Testing

After intensive research and development, Oregon is ready to test its Mosaic process and tool in 2013. Testing the tool will help determine what is working well and what adjustments are needed before Mosaic could be widely used. The tool will ultimately provide information to city and agency staff, decision-makers, and the general public about tradeoffs between transportation actions to support fully informed transportation investment decisions.

Before applying Mosaic, planning agencies will identify “bundles” of transportation actions they wish to analyze (the “long list of potential solutions” in the diagram on page 1). Examples of actions may include investments in roadway capacity, parking pricing, bicycle infrastructure, transit frequency, or carsharing programs. Mosaic will take users through a series of eight steps (illustrated above) to help analyze, score, and integrate information about each bundle for each of the nine categories of Transportation System Performance.

Staff, stakeholders, and decision makers are all involved in Mosaic, from helping to determine options to evaluate to determining weights, from technical tasks to reviewing the various output charts and tables and other data to decide what these impacts mean to the community and what decisions may be made in light of this information.



NINE CATEGORIES OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE



Mobility



Accessibility



Economic Vitality



Environmental Stewardship



Safety and Security



Funding the Transportation System/Finance



Land Use and Growth Management



Quality of Life and Livability



Equity

TO FIND OUT MORE

please visit

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/pages/lcp.aspx>