

Preface

This report summarizes a variety of information about freight transportation in Oregon, and serves as a follow-up to ODOT's March, 1998 report, *Oregon Freight Concerns*. *Freight Moves the Oregon Economy* expands upon this earlier report and provides considerably more information about issues and needs surrounding the transport of freight by roads, rail lines, waterways, aircraft, and pipelines.

This report helps to implement the Oregon Transportation Plan and several of its goals, especially those related to economic development. Maintaining a balanced transportation system for moving raw materials to manufacturers and finished products to consumers helps Oregon companies expand and grow in an increasingly competitive national and international economy.

Freight Moves the Oregon Economy also helps implement several plans that support the Oregon Transportation Plan, including the 1999 Oregon Highway Plan, which the Oregon Transportation Commission adopted in March 1999. It completes a directive within the Highway Plan to prepare a statewide freight study. *Freight Moves the Oregon Economy* is consistent with efforts by the U.S. Department of Transportation to broaden its programs to better address freight mobility.

ODOT's future efforts to address the movement of freight are partially outlined in the "Next Steps" identified in Chapter IV of this report. Some of the steps are ongoing while others represent new or expanded initiatives to advance freight transportation policy, planning, and programming. Several new or expanded initiatives are beginning now and others will be underway soon.

The information in this report has been obtained from numerous sources, many of which are cited in the narrative or as references to figures and tables. Appendix 1 lists all of the published sources used in this report and provides Internet addresses for references that are available on the worldwide web.

Information for this report also came from a number of ODOT information systems and other unpublished sources, including the ODOT Accident Data Unit, Bridge Management System, Congestion Management System, Highway Economic Requirements System, Intermodal Management System, Pavement Management System, and Motor Carrier Route Maps and Group Maps.

In January 1999, ODOT provided a draft of *Freight Moves the Oregon Economy* to a variety of freight-related and other interested persons for their review and comment. Appendix 10 at the end of this report shows a summary of reviewer comments and how ODOT addressed them. Additional review and comments are welcome and should be sent to Steve Kale at the postal or e-mail address, telephone number, or fax number shown inside the front cover of this document.