

# FY 2007 RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

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## TITLE

**IM-07-07 Freight performance measures: approach analysis**

## PROBLEM (Description of need)

Significant efforts have been made in recent years to improve the collection and analysis of freight data and to better understand and respond to the needs of the freight community. Despite this effort there exists relatively little research on approaches to examine the performance of the transportation system relative to freight and to examine the subset of the effectiveness of infrastructure investments on freight performance. Without agreed upon metrics effective project development and prioritization becomes complex and contentious, even if a subset of freight-only modal funding is assigned. Further, such modal limitations foreclose comparison of modal integration and cross-modal benefits that can accrue across the system. Lacking a system for tracking the current and desired performance of the overall freight system, cost effective decision making is hampered.

## PROPOSED RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITY

Assess relevance of current "conventional" transportation performance measures to freight. Using previously generated freight needs assessments in Oregon and elsewhere analyze what corresponding performance measures would record achievement of those needs. Assess the availability of existing data to support performance measures, and assess data collection needs to support desired performance measures. Assess means to address how infrastructure investments can be assessed to determine benefits to freight industry (e.g. increased access to markets, improved travel time, improved access to highway network, improved access to 2 or more modes).

## BENEFITS

Improved freight decision-making improved assessment of freight benefits from infrastructure investment, and improved cross-modal and multimodal decision-making.

## CONTACT PERSON:

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