



# SPR RESEARCH PROGRAM

## SECOND-STAGE PROBLEM STATEMENT

### FY 2009-10

ODOT Research Unit  
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#### I. PROBLEM NUMBER -- RDDS-10-11

#### II. PROBLEM TITLE -- Socio-Economic Impacts of SB 1080 on Immigrant Groups

#### III. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

Senate Bill 1080 mandates that the Department of Transportation require proof of legal presence in the United States and, in most cases, a verified Social Security number prior to issuance, renewal or replacement of driver licenses, driver permits, or identification cards. Oregon House Bill 3624 calls for the Department of Transportation to provide annual reports beginning in January 2009 describing the impact.

In addition to reporting mandated by HB 3624, which includes impacts on DMV operations, safety and other impacts, legislators expressed concern about the human impact of these new requirements on the transportation, employment, housing, health care, education, social and cultural needs of immigrant groups.

Most clearly affected are undocumented Mexican immigrants, who are estimated to account for 56% of the Mexican-born population in the U.S. There is reason to believe that the proportion of undocumented Mexicans is even higher in Oregon, as it is a "new destination" for Mexican migration, and appears to be receiving a relatively high number of migrants from "new sending states" in Mexico, such as Oaxaca. People from the newer sending states have fewer long-term connections in the U.S., and are therefore less likely to benefit from the ability to regularize status provided by the 1986 Simpson-Mazzoli bill, or the ability of new citizens to bring in family members.

#### IV. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research problem to be addressed is to investigate (1) the extent to which new identification requirements for Oregon drivers' license applications has increased the number of undocumented immigrants who may be driving without licenses and insurance in Oregon, (2) the degree to which immigrants may be driving less, and thereby losing better employment, housing, health care, educational, social and cultural opportunities, and (3) the degree to which the new requirements may result in less mobility for particular segments of the population, such as women or young people during critical educational and training ages.

#### V. WORK TASKS, COST ESTIMATE AND DURATION

We will conduct a multi-pronged, statewide investigation of the socio-economic impacts of SB 1080 on Immigrant Groups. The several components of this study will include:

1. **A Literature Review** to take advantage of any research done in other states that required proof of legal presence in the United States in order to obtain a valid drivers' license in advance of this requirement in Oregon. Oregon is one of the last states to require a verified Social Security number, rather than the *matricula consular* identification by the Mexican consulate to a large number of Mexicans who lacked alternative documents.
2. **A Statistical Analysis of Census and American Community Survey Data** to establish the strongest possible sense of the geographical, industrial and occupational distribution of Mexican migrant populations in the state, as well as an age, sex and educational profile.
3. **A qualitative study of impacts of the new requirements** accomplished by structured, in-depth interviews, conducted with several key groups in different regions of the state, including:
  - A. Employers in industries where Mexican immigrants are concentrated. Mexican migrants are working in relatively few industries, including agriculture, food processing, construction, hotels and restaurants, and personal service. Employers in these key industries of different sizes, in different regions, and in both urban and rural areas will be interviewed to learn what they see as the impact on their ability to

attract, retain and train their labor force, as well as to deploy it in the manner they would prefer, i.e. to tasks that may require driving.

Employer interviews will be supplemented with interviews of people in key positions with wide business contacts, such as in the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. These interviews will be conducted by faculty and graduate students of Portland State University.

- B. Staff in public and non-profit agencies that provide education, health care and social services to migrant populations, to learn whether they have seen a change in their ability to serve migrant groups, or particular segments of the migrant population, such as women or young people.

These interviews will be conducted by faculty and graduate students of Portland State University.

- C. Mexican migrants in different geographical regions and working in different industries and occupations. These interviews will focus on the impacts perceived by migrants in a wide range of areas, including employment, education, health care, social and cultural opportunities, and differential impacts on particular segments of the population such as women and youth. Interviews will be conducted with people gathered at large events that attract significant Mexican-born attendance, such as the Wood burn Fiesta and Salsa en la Calle in Portland, as well as in the waiting room of the Mexican Consulate and other locations around the state where Mexican immigrants gather, such as churches, stores and home-town associations.

These interviews will be conducted in Spanish, by a team of experienced Mexican researchers, faculty and graduate students from the Technical University of Oaxaca, as well as bi-lingual, bi-cultural graduate students from Portland State University. The advantage of employing this group will be the high level of confidence we will gain as to the veracity and comprehensiveness of the answers given the surveyers.

4. **IV. Economic Analysis** of the results generated from interview data, to assess the costs of revealed impacts on employment, educational and health particularly.
5. **Final Report.** Synthesize the findings, in order to write up and deliver to ODOT a final report, drawing from each of the previous steps.

Total project cost is **\$95,000**. Project duration is **12 months**.

## VI. IMPLEMENTATION

The results of this research will be included in reports to the Oregon legislature describing the impacts of the legislation.

## VII. POTENTIAL BENEFITS

This study will provide a comprehensive assessment of the social and economic impacts of SB 1080, to provide a guide to public policy in the future.

## VIII. SUBMITTED BY:

### *Stage 2 Submitters*

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