

The cooperative efforts of the partners and stakeholders of the OWIN Project resulted in a vote of confidence from the 75th Session of the Oregon Legislature. Senators and Representatives voted overwhelmingly to authorize a General Fund budget of \$3.5 million and a Capital Construction Budget of \$192.9 million.

“This show of support from the Legislature will allow the OWIN Project to build a better, safer public safety radio system,” said OWIN Director Lindsay Ball. “All Oregonians will benefit, from emergency responders to the citizens who count on them to be able to communicate with each other.”

Earlier in this Session, legislators authorized \$76 million of bonding for Phase I work and \$74.5 million of funding to be transferred from ODOT.

“The funds approved by the Legislature represent the majority of the funding for the entire OWIN Project. We can now complete Phase I in western Oregon by installing trunked, mobile data and interoperable radio systems,” said Ball. “The Legislature has also now made it possible to complete Phase II by building the microwave network infrastructure in northeastern Oregon.”

OWIN’s partners helped the Legislature realize the depth of local, grass roots support for this project. From Portland to Pendleton and Ashland to Ontario, advocates of the OWIN Project were seen and heard by members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee at a series of eight public hearings. Those who testified – cops, firefighters, emergency dispatchers and public safety managers – represent the men and women who risk their lives for the rest of us.

“That OWIN should receive support in the Capitol during these tough economic times says a lot about the importance of what we’re doing,” said Ball. “I want to especially recognize the members of the OWIN Legislative Work Group – Senators Betsy Johnson, Joanne Verger and Dave Nelson and Representatives Nancy Nathanson and Chuck Riley – for the way they advised and guided OWIN through this session.”

As for the immediate future of the OWIN Project, negotiations are being wrapped up with Black and Veatch Corporation, the global engineering and construction company that will handle Architecture and Engineering tasks at hundreds of OWIN sites. The RFP has been issued for the project’s Construction Management/General Contractor firm and proposals are due by July 24th. Federal Engineering, a leading public safety mobile radio consulting firm, will soon begin its review of the RFP for radio acquisition. That RFP should be issued by September 1st. Going out to bid very soon will be the contract for Project Management services. There’s also a major OWIN staff effort to nurture existing partnerships and create new ones. These partnerships have already resulted in projected savings of \$60 million to the State of Oregon.