

# Oregon Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Vision, Mission and Roles

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*Updated August 2018*

## **Background**

*The Oregon Bicycle Advisory Committee (OBAC) was formed in 1973. ORS 366.112 states that: “There is created in the Department of Transportation an advisory committee to be appointed by the Governor to advise the department regarding the regulation of bicycle traffic and the establishment of bicycle lanes and paths. The committee shall consist of eight members including an employee of a unit of local government employed in land use planning, a representative of a recognized environmental group, a person engaged in the business of selling or repairing bicycles, a member designated by the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council, and at least one member under the age of 21 at the time of appointment.” In 1995, the Oregon Transportation Commission officially recognized the OBAC's role in pedestrian issues; the committee became the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (OBPAC).*

*In 2017, Governor Brown appointed four new members to OBPAC, and re-appointed three existing members. These OBPAC members met multiple times in 2018 to create the vision, mission, goals, and work program of OBPAC for the next two to three years, between 2018 and 2021. Below are the results of that work.*

## **Vision**

OBPAC has adopted the vision of the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

In Oregon, people of all ages, incomes, and abilities can access destinations in urban and rural areas on comfortable, safe, well-connected biking and walking routes. People can enjoy Oregon’s scenic beauty by walking and biking on a transportation system that respects the needs of its users and their sense of safety. Bicycle and pedestrian networks are recognized as integral, interconnected elements of the Oregon transportation system that contribute to our diverse and vibrant communities and the health and quality of life enjoyed by Oregonians.

## **OBPAC Mission**

The mission of the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (OBPAC) is to advise the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Transportation Commission and Oregon Legislature on priorities, issues, projects and funding needs to improve biking and walking in Oregon. OBPAC members are stewards of the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (OBPP) implementation, with a focus on the goals of safety, equity, and connectivity. OBPAC informs and advocates for effective decision making and innovative solutions to ensure the OBPP vision is achieved.

## Legislation (ORS 366.112)

*There is created in the Department of Transportation an advisory committee to be appointed by the Governor to advise the department regarding the regulation of bicycle traffic and the establishment of bicycle lanes and paths. The committee shall consist of eight members including an employee of a unit of local government employed in land use planning, a representative of a recognized environmental group, a person engaged in the business of selling or repairing bicycles, a member designated by the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council, and at least one member under the age of 21 at the time of appointment. Members of the advisory committee shall be entitled to compensation and expenses as provided by ORS 292.495 (Compensation and expenses of members of state boards and commissions).*

*The members shall be appointed to serve for terms of four years each. A vacancy on the committee shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term.*

*The committee shall meet regularly four times a year, at times and places fixed by the chairperson of the committee. The committee may meet at other times upon notice by the chairperson or three members of the committee. The department shall provide office space and personnel to assist the committee as requested by the chairperson, within the limits of available funds. The committee shall adopt rules to govern its proceedings and may select officers it considers necessary. [1973 c.716 §1; 1993 c.741 §35]*

## Committee Role

OBPAC ensures the needs of people walking and bicycling are heard, understood and addressed by ODOT, OTC, and the Oregon Legislature. We:

- a. Advise and influence OTC and ODOT on bicycle and pedestrian priorities in policies, projects and plans
- b. Engage throughout planning and implementation processes
- c. Educate and inform decision makers on statewide policy and priorities
- d. Proactively recommend priorities
- e. Provide insight about issues and needs in local jurisdictions
- f. Reduce barriers to progress for moving initiatives that support people walking and biking forward
- g. Participate in funding competition Advisory Committees and project selection (e.g. Safe Routes to School, Connect Oregon, other bike/pedestrian funding competitions)
- h. Advise on policies regarding emerging issues (e.g. policy development on issues like e-bikes and autonomous vehicles)
- i. Collaborate with freight, public transportation, and transportation options providers

OBPAC is an advisory body. OBPAC does not lobby or manage projects (e.g. design, budgets, staff).