



OREGON TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

2019 - 2021

INTRODUCTION

Under Oregon law, the Oregon Transportation Commission (“OTC” or “Commission”) has extensive responsibilities. These responsibilities include establishing transportation policies, approving strategic transportation plans, overseeing plan implementation, approving transportation projects, overseeing the management of state highways, maintaining financial oversight of Oregon Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) budget, coordinating and administering programs, and reviewing the performance of the ODOT Director.¹

¹ Transportation Policy Development: The Commission is responsible for establishing transportation policies, including for the operation of ODOT and for the management, construction and maintenance of highways and other transportation systems in Oregon, including for aviation, ports, and rail; and for adopting a greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.

Strategic Transportation Planning: The Commission is responsible for the following planning activities, among others: developing and maintaining a 20-Year plan for a safe, multimodal transportation system for Oregon which encompasses economic efficiency, orderly economic development, and environmental quality; and developing transportation modal plans for each mode of transportation in coordination with the State Marine Board, the Oregon Business Development Department, the State Aviation Board, cities, counties, mass transit districts, and transportation districts, including a multi-modal plan for the movement of people and freight. The OTC is also responsible for reviewing and approving implementation programs to achieve the goals of each modal and multimodal plan; initiating studies, the Commission deems necessary, to guide the ODOT Director concerning the transportation needs of Oregon; and entering into intergovernmental agreements between local governments or state agencies and ODOT to maximize the efficiency of Oregon’s transportation systems.

Plan Implementation: The Commission is responsible for developing a list of prioritized and achievable projects for each modal and multimodal plan that look at least 20 years into the future.

Transportation Project Approval, Highway Management, and Financial Oversight: The Commission is responsible for reviewing and approving STIP projects and project modifications; capital construction requirements; construction priorities; and selection, vacation, or abandonment of Oregon highways; and reviewing and approving ODOT’s proposed budget prior to its submission to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

Program Coordination and Administration: The Commission is responsible for taking any action necessary to coordinate and administer programs related to highways, motor carriers, motor vehicles, public transit, rail, transportation safety, and other programs related to transportation.

Director’s Practices and Performance Review: The Commission is responsible for prescribing administrative practices for the performance of the ODOT Director.

2019 Work Plan Elements

In 2019, the Commission will focus on strategic transportation priorities and complete the following actions:

- Updating Major Transportation Plans. Determine the timing for commencing and completing an update of the Oregon Transportation Plan and the Oregon Highway Plan;
- Reducing Vehicle-Generated Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Review and approve a schedule of actions to implement the Statewide Transportation Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions created by vehicles;
- Developing a Tolling Policy. Initiate the development of a vision, goals, and policies for tolling; develop plans for a system-wide transportation pricing analysis in the Portland region; discuss lessons learned from the tolling experience in other states (particularly in Washington state); conduct public outreach in Oregon on tolling and how to relieve traffic congestion; and discuss what the development of a tolling system for Oregon would require;
- Improving Intergovernmental Coordination. Identify the nature and timing of concrete actions in the 2019-2021 timeframe to enable the Commission and ODOT to more effectively coordinate with federal, state, regional, and local governments about transportation, housing, and land use considerations to maximize the benefits of transportation investments in Oregon;
- Implementing House Bill 2017. Review and approve actions proposed by ODOT to implement key provisions of HB 2017, including Safe Routes to School and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund;
- Furthering Earthquake Preparations. Review and approve ODOT's recommendations for the development of plans and investments to make Oregon's transportation system more resilient to a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake;
- Engaging in Legislative Monitoring and Action. Receive periodic legislative updates from ODOT during 2019 on federal, state, and local legislative or ballot measures related to

Oregon transportation funding and infrastructure investments, including carbon cap and trade legislation, and continue to engage in dialogue with the leaders of the Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation;

- Conducting Annual Performance Reviews. Conduct annual written performance reviews of ODOT employees reporting directly to the Commission and charge the ODOT Director with conducting and/or delegating annual written performance reviews of ODOT staff.

2019 Workshops. To promote informed decision-making by the Commission and ensure that Oregon is developing adequate resources and making strategic investments that address current transportation challenges while anticipating Oregon's future transportation needs, the Commission will hold a set of in-depth workshops during 2019 on these topics:

- Strategic Transportation Investment. In preparation for future decision making, including on the Department's 2021-2023 biennial budget and 2024-2027 STIP funding allocation, the Commission will hold a workshop to better understand federal, state, and local transportation funding; current and future transportation needs; the restrictions on the use of certain types of funding; the gap between current funding levels and current funding needs; funding trend lines from current and alternative funding sources; and how to address any funding gaps. The Commission anticipates that this workshop will involve a series of sessions.
- Green House Gas Emissions Reduction. In anticipation of the potential passage of cap and trade legislation in Oregon in 2019, the Commission will develop a deeper understanding of the investments that are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by the transportation sector, the impact of such legislation to available transportation funding sources (if any), and begin to develop partnerships with other state commissions and departments which will develop policies on carbon emission reduction.
- Portland Metro Area Congestion Relief. In anticipation of progress on several large congestion relief projects in the Portland region in the coming years, the Commission will discuss major projects to increase multimodal capacity and reduce congestion, including the following projects: I-5 Rose Quarter, I-205 and Abernethy Bridge, Interstate 5 Bridge,

and Southwest Corridor Light Rail. Among other issues, this discussion will examine the relationship between these projects and tolling and congestion pricing.

- Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake Response. In order to ensure adequate preparedness for maintaining the readiness and safety of Oregon citizens, the Commission will discuss the impacts of a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake on the state's transportation system, to include reviewing Oregon's Resiliency Plan and the Cascadia Playbook.

Looking Beyond 2019

In 2020 and 2021, the Commission anticipates workshops and ongoing engagement on several other topics, including the following:

- emerging technologies;
- Interstate 5 bridge replacement;
- rural community Transportation Investment Strategies;
- diversity, equity, and inclusion among ODOT's leadership, workforce, and contractors, and discussion of other equity transportation policy issues;
- innovations in funding, local engagement, and transportation systems and programs, including:
 - Road Usage Charges;
 - Area Commissions on Transportation engagement;
 - State Radio Project;
 - Service Transformation Program;
 - Ultra High Speed Interstate Rail;
 - Cascades Passenger Rail;
 - selected pilot projects.

Commission Focus Areas in 2020. The Commission will determine its work program for 2020 at its 2019 Commission workshop.

Commission Focus Areas in 2021. The Commission will determine its work program for 2021 at its 2020 Commission workshop.

Annual Commission Actions. Early each year in the 2019-2021 timeframe, in conjunction with ODOT, the Commission will:

- Identify operational policy actions to be taken that year, if any, and put those actions on the Commission's consent agenda for approval unless one or more Commissioners desires to remove an action item to the regular agenda;
- Identify transportation policy actions to be taken that year, if any, and put those actions on the Commission's consent agenda for approval unless one or more Commissioners desire to remove an action item to the regular agenda. In 2019, the Commission will review and act on an ODOT recommendation to initiate the development of a tolling policy;
- Identify actions to be taken that year to update project lists and implement elements of Oregon's modal and multimodal transportation plans, if any, and put those actions on the Commission's consent agenda for approval unless one or more Commissioners desires to remove an action to the regular agenda;
- Initiate transportation studies (if any);
- Identify the intergovernmental agreements, if any, which the Commission will review and act on by putting those actions on the Commission's consent agenda for approval unless one or more Commissioners desires to remove an action to the regular agenda;
- Review and approve STIP projects and project modifications by putting those actions on the Commission's consent agenda for approval unless one or more Commissioners desires to remove an action item to the regular agenda;
- Review and approve ODOT biennial budget proposals before they are submitted to the Department of Administrative Services, the Governor's office, and/or the Legislature;
- Review and approve capital constructions requirements (if any), and review potential capital construction projects for inclusion in the 2021-2023 biennial budget, by putting those requirements on the Commission's consent agenda for approval, unless one or more Commissioners desires to remove an action item to the regular agenda.

