

Maintenance and Operations Priorities

ETG Members:

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The current Oregon Department of Transportation Research Section's Maintenance and Operations Expert Task Group (MO ETG) research priorities are defined as:

- Optimal operations and utilization of transportation infrastructure.
- Effective roadway and work zone safety, particularly in routine operations.
- Effective and efficient methods to reduce operational delays and bottlenecks.
- Efficient and effective maintenance practices

The scope of the MO ETG has particular focus on ongoing operations. The MO ETG considers and evaluates research concepts that deal with regional and district day-to-day operations, work zone operations, maintenance equipment or materials, safety aspects for maintenance crews, Intelligent Transportation Systems data with focus on operational delays, winter maintenance issues and performance, and emergency response activities.

There are a number of questions that the MO ETG should consider when evaluating statements. They are:

- 1) Does the research idea address a problem, or need, that the ETG considers pertinent to ODOT's mission and goals?
 - a. How likely is the project to align with the priorities and objectives of the Research Advisory Committee?
- 2) How urgent is the research needed?
 - a. Will the research be completed quickly enough to affect the targeted issue or problem?
- 3) What is the value of the potential benefits (economic, ecosystem, cultural, safety, staff time, etc.) compared to the expected cost of the associated research?
- 4) How much of the department's resources are affected by the issue? Is this a special case/circumstance or does the problem have a wide-ranging affect?
- 5) Is it likely that the research will produce a realistic and implementable result for ODOT?
 - a. Or are there significant barriers to implementing outcomes that are external (e.g. political concerns, public acceptance, requires ORS changes, etc.)?
- 6) Is there a project champion likely to use the results, either for change or to enforce current practice?
- 7) How likely are the results to change ODOT's business practice, or for new business practices, how likely is it that the results will facilitate the way ODOT does something?

- 8) Does the research idea fit best in the scope of the MO ETG, or is it more appropriate for another ETG to assess the merits of the idea?
- 9) How does the idea compare with the other ideas under consideration?