

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CALL FOR RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENTS WITH A FOCUS ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION

**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15 2022**

Each year ODOT Research asks our partners to identify transportation problems that impact Oregon. Funds and other resources are available for **Research** (study of a transportation problem) and **Development** (design and/or testing of a new transportation tool or procedure).

As a part of the state of our ongoing commitment to serve all the people of Oregon we are asking for research proposals that address the topics of equity and inclusion. We are specifically interested in the intersection of equity and inclusion with the provision of transportation infrastructure and services by the state.

We are collecting these research proposals to help us build our research program for projects that will start next summer. Ideally, research produced by this program becomes a foundation for change within the agency and throughout Oregon. Successful research will produce findings that we can use to change our policies, procedures, standards, or infrastructure specifications.

Our Strategic Action Plan identifies equity and inclusion as a priority and specifies the following agency goals:

- Build a diverse workforce, supported by equitable operations and policies, and establish an informed culture that delivers authentic inclusivity.
- Promote economic opportunity for Oregonians through transportation investments, including working with businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), women, and others who have been historically and/ or are currently marginalized.
- Utilize the viewpoints of those who reside in the communities ODOT serves and who are likely to be affected by the decisions ODOT makes.
- Invest in the protection of marginalized communities from environmental hazards.

We seek research proposals that directly address these priorities.

Proposals are due November 15<sup>th</sup>. We will screen proposals through a two-step process that includes a review by agency staff and senior executives. ODOT will assign an agency sponsor and advisory committee to selected proposals leading to a collaborative project work plan. This collaborative approach helps researchers deliver research findings that are more likely to fit within the context of a state agency and have a greater potential to affect change.

**Application and process information are available online at:**

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/programs/pages/research.aspx> For the Stage One-Research Problem Statement form please click on the **Tab 1 “Problem statement Identification.**

For more information contact the ODOT Research Section at **503-986-2700**

Research proposals from any academic discipline that are likely to address equity and inclusion in transportation are encouraged, and we look forward to a collaborative approach to setting research project objectives.