# OREGON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## Public Involvement

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is working with interested parties throughout the state to develop a new Oregon Public Transportation Plan (OPTP). The OPTP will include policies and strategies to help people in Oregon proactively anticipate change and wisely invest public resources. The OPTP directs the public transportation work of the Oregon Department of Transportation and guides and supports the transportation investment decisions of transit agencies and regional and local governments. The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) guides the development of the OPTP and is chaired by an Oregon Transportation Commissioner.

The vision for public transportation in Oregon includes support for an interconnected transportation system where public transportation is one of many fundamental elements. As a result, public transportation furthers community livability and economic vitality and all Oregonians have access to affordable, reliable, and convenient transportation services that is effective for many of their travel needs.

## Importance of Public Involvement

ODOT needs to hear from everyone, including community members, users of public transportation, public transportation providers, and government agencies, to create a plan that reflects the public transportation needs and desires of the whole state. This input will help shape the advisory committees' conversations about what to include and how to shape the OPTP.

ODOT is inviting a wide variety of people to participate in the development of the OPTP to ensure that the interests of everyone are considered in the plan. ODOT will seek input from transit riders, transit agency staff, local and regional decision-makers, and the general public including people with low-incomes, minorities, people whose primary language is not English, and people with disabilities. These people will participate in plan development committees, focus groups, and be invited to other events as described below.

To gather input, ODOT is hosting several opportunities for residents to participate including:

- Listening meetings –in-person meetings in each ODOT region to gather feedback on opportunities and challenges to inform policy and strategy development. These meetings will be conducted early in the planning process.
- Online open houses –virtual meetings to enable more residents and stakeholders to participate; these will be held during outreach for each project milestone and will present similar information as in-person meetings and presentations.
- Presentations to Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) – these presentations will be open to the public and staff will share the draft policies and strategies and later the draft OPTP for feedback.
- Focus groups – small group discussions with invited stakeholder groups about special or technical topics such as equity or performance measures, held between milestones one and two.
- Interviews – the team will check in with specific stakeholder groups during outreach for the draft policies and strategies.
- Advisory committees – the OPTP is developed with a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of representatives of a wide variety of affected groups. Committee meetings are open to the public and will be held throughout the project.

## How to Participate

There are three major milestones in development of the OPTP. At each milestone, ODOT will hold public meetings and an online open house to gather feedback from the public regarding the work completed. The figure below shows planned events and their approximate timing.

You can also participate by signing up for email updates from the OPTP project website at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/Pages/optp.aspx. This way you will receive project announcements including public meetings in your area and links to online open houses. PAC meeting materials are available and project products including focus group summaries will be posted on the website. Throughout the project, you are welcome to provide your comments on work to date by sending them to OPTP@odot.state.or.us.

### Public Involvement Opportunities

| Fall 2016 | Spring 2017 | Spring 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Milestone #1: Vision and Goals**<br>Draft OPTP Vision and Goals, Opportunities and Challenges<br>➢ 5 listening meetings<br>➢ Online open house | **Milestone #2: Policies and Strategies**<br>Draft OPTP Policies and Strategies<br>➢ Presentations to ACTs and other groups<br>➢ Online open house | **Milestone #3: Draft OPTP**<br>Full Draft Oregon Public Transportation Plan<br>➢ Presentations to ACTs and other groups<br>➢ Online open house |

**Milestone #1: Vision and Goals**

Outreach activities during this phase will share the draft vision and goals and discuss opportunities and challenges. What we learn will be shared with the PAC and TAC to help inform policy development.

**Milestone #2: Policies and Strategies**

During this phase of the project ODOT will be seeking feedback on the draft polices and strategies for the plan. Input will be shared with the PAC and TAC to revise and improve the policies and strategies.

**Milestone #3: Draft OPTP**

During this phase of the project ODOT will be seeking public comments on the draft plan, including investment and implementation considerations. Input will be used by ODOT and the committees to revise the draft plan. The PAC will then send the revised draft plan to the Oregon Transportation Commission for adoption.

## Project Contacts and Website

For more information about the OPTP project visit the website here: http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/Pages/optp.aspx. Project staff members are listed below and the primary contact for the plan is Lucia Ramirez.


Lucia Ramirez
ODOT Planning
lucia.l.ramirez@odot.state.or.us
503-986-4168

Brooke Jordan
ODOT Planning
brooke.jordan@odot.state.or.us
503-986-3510

Jean Palmateer
Rail and Public Transit Division
jean.m.palmateer@odot.state.or.us
503-986-3472

Amanda Pietz
Planning Unit Manager
amanda.pietz@odot.state.or.us
503-986-4227