



Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR)

Instructions for Reviewers



AVIATION SYSTEM ACTION PROGRAM FUND
INSTRUCTIONS TO REVIEWERS FOR COAR GRANTS

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide instructional guidance on the review and recommendation processes required by agency staff, the Aviation Review Committee (ARC), and the State Aviation Board. The ARC is established as per ORS 319.023 (3)(b) and operates under the rules established in OAR 738-124-0060.

The applications are for consideration of grant funding from the Critical Oregon Airport Relief grant program (COAR) which is funded through monies from the Aviation System Action Program (ASAP) Fund. COAR is a **funding-program** available to eligible public-use airports in Oregon.

The application review process includes the following steps:

1. APPLICATION SUBMITTAL PERIOD

Submittal Period for Grant Applications: Annually October - November

2. AGENCY STAFF REVIEW

Completeness Review: Annually, finalized in November

3. AVIATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Statutory Considerations Review by the ARC members: Annually November - December
Aviation Review Committee Meeting: January/February after the application cycle has closed

4. STATE AVIATION BOARD

Final Public Meeting and Selection of projects to fund: Annually in February

*The exact dates, time, and locations of public meetings will be posted on the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) website once they are available.

The State Aviation Board and ODAV reserve the right to modify review dates. ODAV will provide accurate and up-to-date information on the Department's website. For more information about the State Aviation Board, please visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/AVB/Pages/AVB.aspx>

SECTION 1: AGENCY STAFF REVIEW

1.1 Completeness Review:

Applications will be screened by internal ODAV program staff to ensure that each application is complete. This review is conducted per OAR-738-124-0050.

If an application is determined to be incomplete or that the Applicant is ineligible, the ODAV staff is required to notify the Applicant within 15 days of making that determination. The Applicant must respond within 5 days of receiving notification for the application to be re-evaluated for completeness. This includes cases in which an Applicant submits a protest of determination of ineligibility, to which the Director of the Department of Aviation shall respond within 45 days; the Director's decision is considered final.

After the Completeness Review is done for all the submitted applications, the ones that are deemed complete are then forwarded to the members of the ARC.

SECTION 2: AVIATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

2.1 General

ORS 319.020 Sec. 3 (b) The State Aviation Board shall establish a review committee composed of one member from each of the Area Commissions on Transportation chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

It is each Applicant's responsibility to be as precise and well-documented as possible in showing how the application responds to each of the statutory considerations. It is the responsibility of each ARC member to review project applications and provide comments which support their decisions while considering the benefits of the project and the statutory considerations.

ODAVV staff will provide the ARC members each an electronic application package for each project that they will evaluate. The ARC member will complete their evaluations and submit to ODAVV.

Please direct all questions to grants@ODAVV.oregon.gov or contact ODAVV Program Coordinators.

2.2 Area Commissions on Transportation

2.2.1 Regions

The following table provides an outline of the Oregon ACTs, the areas covered by the ACTs, and their corresponding Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) region:

Table 1: Oregon ACTs

Oregon ACTs	ACTs Area	ODOT Region
Region 1 ACT	ODOT Region 1, including most of Washington, Hood River, Multnomah and Clackamas counties	Region 1
Northwest Oregon ACT	Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia and western rural Washington counties	Region 2
Mid-Willamette Valley ACT	Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties	Region 2
Cascades West ACT	Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties	Region 2
Lane County ACT	Lane county	Region 2
South West ACT	Coos, Curry and Douglas counties	Region 3
Rogue Valley ACT	Jackson and Josephine counties	Region 3
Lower John Day ACT	Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler and Wasco counties	Region 4
Central Oregon ACT	Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties	Region 4
South Central Oregon ACT	Klamath and Lake counties	Region 4

North East ACT	Morrow, Baker, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	Region 5
South East ACT	Grant, Harney and Malheur counties and the Burns Paiute Tribe	Region 5

For more information about the Oregon ACTs, please visit the Oregon Department of Transportation Area Commissions on Transportation website:

https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/Pages/act_main.aspx

To view a map of the ODOT regions, please visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/TDD%20Documents/ConnectOregon-Regions-Map.pdf>

2.2.2 Review, Discuss and Comment on Projects

ARC members may collaborate with other members of their ACTs to complete the evaluation.

ARC members may present information regarding projects, the condition of the state's transportation network, or other relevant information to their whole ACT.

2.3 Statutory Review

2.3.1 Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Upon starting the review process, the ARC representative will be required to sign and submit a conflict of interest form. Members are required to disclose all conflicts of interest regarding any projects being discussed. A conflict of interest means the member has an actual or potential financial benefit in the project. Any conflict of interest disclosures will be recorded in the Final Review Committee meeting minutes.

ARC members with potential conflicts of interest are allowed to participate in the evaluation process and vote on the projects. Those with actual conflicts of interest per ORS 244.120(2)(b) may not participate in discussion or debate nor may they vote.

This disclosure requirement applies to all ARC members.

During deliberation on projects, airport managers or staff to airports shall not vote on ranking of their project in the ARC discussion. This does not preclude them from voting on the overall slate of projects.

2.3.2 Statutory Considerations

The ARC must evaluate grant applications following statutory considerations for Statewide Impacts [ORS 319.023(3)(b) and (OAR 738-124-0060(3)(b))]:

The review committee shall meet as necessary to review applications for distributions of

amounts pursuant to this section. In reviewing applications, the review committee shall consider:

(A) Whether a proposed project:

- (i) Reduces transportation costs for Oregon businesses or improves access to jobs and sources of labor in Oregon;
- (ii) Results in an economic benefit to Oregon;
- (iii) Connects elements of Oregon's aviation system in a way that will measurably improve utilization and efficiency of the system;
- (iv) Is ready for construction or implementation, including whether the project has any unique construction-readiness, project implementation issues, or possible delays; and
- (v) Has a useful life expectancy that offers maximum benefit to this state.

AND

(B) How much of the cost of the proposed project can be borne by the applicant from sources other than Oregon Department of Aviation funds or the Connect Oregon Fund.

In addition, for grant applications for amounts over \$150,000, the ARC may review and make recommendation to the Board for project funding based on a detailed statement of how the grant amount in excess of the maximum listed in OAR-738-124-0040(1)(a) would serve the purposes of the program as described in OAR 738-124-0010 [OAR 738-124-0040(1)(b)].

2.3.2(a) Meets, Somewhat Meets or Does not meet the Statutory Considerations [OAR 738-124-0060(4)]

Based on the application materials, ARC members are to determine whether a project thoroughly meets each of the considerations. To thoroughly meet a consideration, a project shall demonstrate through application responses that the project will accomplish the intent.

For each applicable criterion, the ARC will rate whether the proposed project "Meets," "Somewhat Meets" or "Does not Meet" the criterion. For purposes of this process, those terms have the following meanings:

(A) "Meets" means that the Applicant explained in a thorough and specific manner how the project meets the criterion and provided thorough evidence, including specific facts, specific examples, reliable figures, or detailed citations to supporting attachments to the application to support the Applicant's explanation.

(B) "Somewhat Meets" means that the Applicant provided a general, superficial or non-specific explanation how the project meets the criterion or provided only limited or incomplete supporting evidence to support the Applicant's explanation.

(C) "Does Not Meet" means that either:

- (i) The Applicant reported that the project did not meet the criterion; or
- (ii) The Applicant provided an incomplete or implausible explanation of how the project meets the criterion or provided no evidence or only minimal, implausible or unreliable evidence to support the Applicant's explanation.

2.3.3 Applicant Match Requirements

Applicants are required to provide matching funds, based upon their category of airport, as listed in the current Oregon Aviation Plan. For more information, please follow the link to view chapter 4 of the Oregon Aviation Plan: <https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/plans-and-programs/Documents/OAP/2019/6OAP-Ch4-Roles.pdf>

Airport Category	Category Description	Required Match %
Category 1b	Commercial Primary	50%
Category 1a	Other Commercial Non-Primary (less than 10,000 enplanements)	35%
Category 2	Business	25%
Category 3	Regional	10%
Category 4	Community	10%
Category 5	Low Activity	5%

2.4 Application and Review Materials

ARC members will receive an electronic copy of the applications.

ODAV will assign the ARC members to Review Groups of 2-3 members per group. Applications will be sent to each ARC group for evaluation using the statutory review form. ARC groups are encouraged to meet either in person or virtually and score the applications. Assistance with virtual meetings is available upon request.

Please submit scores as a group, with only one form per project.

2.4.1 Review Form

Section 1 of the review form:

The ARC member will determine if the project will accomplish the intent of the area being considered, then select the corresponding radio button: meets standard, somewhat meets standard, does not meet standard.

Comment areas are provided to show your work and note information critical to your evaluation and how you arrived at your selection.

Section 1:

	Meets Standard	Somewhat Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Comments
Reduced Transportation Costs or Improved Access to Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposed transportation project reduce transportation costs for Oregon businesses or improve access to jobs and sources of labor? 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	0 of 200
Economic Benefit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposed transportation project result in an economic benefit to the state? 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	0 of 200
Critical Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the proposed transportation project a critical link connecting elements of Oregon's transportation system that will measurably improve utilization and efficiency of the system? 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	0 of 200

Example 1 - Review form, section 1

Section 2 of the review form:

The ARC member will make a selection for each question being considered in this section.

Section 2:

Project Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much of the cost of the proposed transportation project can be borne by the applicant for the grant? 	0%-25%	26%-50%	51%-75%	76%-100%	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Project Readiness* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the proposed transportation project ready for construction or ready for implementation? 	Project's Readiness to Start (in months)				
	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	over 24
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>*As all projects are not construction projects, ODA will use the following definition for project readiness when scoring and ranking projects: Whether a project is ready to begin elements of work necessary to commence with construction in a reasonable timeframe. If the project does not involve construction, whether the project is ready for implementation.</p> <p>Review members may use the following information, plus other knowledge when determining project readiness: Permitting, match financing, plan inclusion where necessary, land use approval, applicant capacity</p>					
Life Expectancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposed transportation project have a useful life expectancy that offers maximum benefit to the State? 	Expected Useful Life (in years)				
	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	over 20
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Example 2 - Review form, section 2

2.4.2 Application Scores

Applications receive a base score during the completeness review by agency staff. The base score is a technical score based on the completeness of the application and the information provided by the applicant.

The applicant's responses to the questions relating to statutory considerations require a critical review by the ARC members before making a final selection. The selections made on the review form will produce a reviewer's score, which will be combined with the base score and result in a final application score.

The scores are calculated automatically as applicants and reviewers complete their designated forms.

The final application score may be used to break ties between rankings during the ARC meeting.

2.5 ARC Meeting

2.5.1 ODAV Staff Support and Committee Administration

ODAV staff will provide staff support for the ARC meeting. ODAV staff will coordinate with the ARC Chair and ARC members regarding the meeting, scheduling, agenda, and necessary public notice.

ODAV staff, unless otherwise directed by the committee, will:

- Present the ARC's final scoring of projects;
- Assist the ARC with understanding the review process; and
- Record results of the ARC proceedings.

ODAV staff will provide the ARC a combined list of scored projects. The list will contain a summary of each project, the project category, the name of the applicant, the total project cost, total matching funds, the total funds requested from ODAV, and the final application score for all projects.

The agenda and meeting minutes will be posted on the ODAV website.

2.5.2 Input into the Decision Process

During the ARC meeting, the ARC may hear presentations from applicants.

The ARC will discuss projects based on information provided through:

- The project application and related documents;
- Applicant written responses to questions; and
- ARC's knowledge and expertise.

The ARC may also use any identified statewide plan such as the current Oregon Aviation Plan to assist with ranking and determining where projects strategically address mODAVI needs. Committee members may contact ODAV staff for assistance with statewide planning information.

To view the current Oregon Aviation Plan, visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/plans-and-programs/Pages/oap.aspx>

The review committee members shall **not consider** information provided through lobbying by the applicant or any other person outside of the committees' public meetings. This includes any request for preapproval by an applicant or other party.

The ARC shall not require applicants to seek prior consultation or pre-approval of any projects, nor prioritize any project negatively due to any failure to consult with the committee prior to submitting an application.

2.5.3 Project Prioritization

Per ORS 319.023 (5)(a), the Review Committee shall recommend applications to the State Aviation Board, which shall select applications with the following priority:

- (a) First, to assist airports in Oregon with match requirements for Federal Aviation Administration grants.
- (b) Second, to make grants for emergency preparedness and infrastructure projects, in accordance with the Oregon Resilience Plan or the Oregon Aviation Plan.
- (c) Third, to make grants for:
 - (A) Services critical or essential to aviation, including, but not limited to, fuel, sewer, water and weather equipment;
 - (B) Aviation-related business development, including, but not limited to, hangars, parking for business aircraft and related facilities; **or**
 - (C) Airport development for local economic benefit, including, but not limited to, signs and marketing.
 - (D) Assist commercial air service to rural Oregon.

Projects within a lower statutory priority shall not be ranked above projects with a higher statutory priority.

Per OAR 738-124-0035(6)(d), “Notwithstanding these priorities based on use, priority in distributing grants may be given to projects for which applicants demonstrate a commitment to contribute the greatest amounts toward the costs of the projects to which the applications relate.” The level of Airport Sponsor match funds is scored automatically in the IGX completeness formula.

2.5.4 Additional Factors for Prioritization [OAR 738-124-0060(5)]:

In prioritizing applications submitted for COAR funds, the ARC may consider the following factors:

- (a) The percentage of total project cost that the Applicant is able to bear.
- (b) Projects related to safety or infrastructure.
- (c) Quantity of projects applied for at an airport, within the same grant cycle.
- (d) Regional significance.

Example:

Project Name	Project Priority and category	Application Score
A	Priority I - FAA Match	110
B	Priority II - Emergency Preparedness & Infrastructure Project	100
C	Priority I - FAA Grant Match	100
D	Priority II - Emergency Preparedness & Infrastructure	95

	Project	
E	Priority III - Economic Benefit	105

Explanation of Example

The ARC is responsible for ranking the projects within priorities I, II, and III. The result will be a prioritized list of recommended projects which will be presented to the State Aviation Board for their vetting and final approval.

In the above example, Project A and Project C are priority I projects; Project B and Project D are priority II projects; and Project E is a priority III project.

The ARC will rank Projects A and C by deciding which project will be placed first, and which project will be placed second. The Application Score ranking may be changed using the factors from (4) listed above; an explanatory statement listing the factors considered for the final ranking must be included in the final recommendation.

The ARC will proceed to rank priority I projects, then priority II projects, followed by priority III projects. Projects are ranked within their Priority grouping.

2.5.5 Final Recommendation Report

The ARC will approve a final list of prioritized projects and submit that list with comments as a recommendation to the State Aviation Board.

The ARC may also recommend that projects not be funded and must include an explanation of that recommendation to the State Aviation Board.

SECTION 3: STATE AVIATION BOARD

3.1 General

The State Aviation Board will review the project list recommended by the ARC. The Board will provide final approval of projects to receive COAR grants. [OAR 738-124-0035]

3.2 State Aviation Board Members

The State Aviation Board, or “Board”, is a seven person policy board appointed by the Governor.

3.3 Board Meeting – Final Project Selection

The Board will hold a public meeting, generally as part of a regularly scheduled Board meeting, for selection of projects to receive COAR grants.

The exact dates, time, and locations for the Board meetings will be posted on the Oregon Department of Aviation website once they are available. For updates, please visit:
<https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/AVB/Pages/AVB.aspx>

3.3.1 Conflict of Interest Disclosure

At each meeting at which the COAR project applications are presented, the Board Chair shall require Board members to disclose all conflicts of interest regarding any projects being discussed. A conflict of interest means the member has an actual or potential financial benefit in the project. Any conflict of interest disclosures will be recorded in the Board meeting minutes.

The Board members with potential conflicts of interest are allowed to participate in the ranking process and vote on the projects. Those with actual conflicts of interest per ORS 244.120(2)(b) may not participate in discussion or debate nor may they vote.

3.3.2 ODAV Staff Support and Administration

ODAV staff will provide each member of the Board a copy of the ARC’s recommendations. ODAV will coordinate with the Board Chair and Board members regarding the meeting, scheduling, agenda, and necessary public notice.

The staff report and ARC recommendation, Board agenda and Board meeting minutes will be posted on the ODAV website.

ODAV staff, unless otherwise directed by the committee, will:

- Present the application and review process;
- Present the ARC’s ranking of projects; and
- Record results of the Board proceedings.

3.3.3 Applicant Presentations

The Board may require any Applicant to make a presentation at the Board meeting or participate in an interview with a Board designee as part of its consideration process [OAR738-

124-0035(4)]. The Board is not required to schedule presentations of all Applicant projects.

3.3.4 Project Prioritization

The Board may modify project rankings recommended by the ARC; however, projects within a lower statutory priority **shall not** be ranked above projects with a higher statutory priority.

Per OAR 738-124-0035(6): When selecting COAR applications for approval, the Board shall prioritize them as described below:

- (a) First, to assist airports in Oregon with match requirements for FAA grants
- (b) Second, to make grants for emergency preparedness and infrastructure projects, in accordance with the Oregon Resilience Plan or the Oregon Aviation Plan.
- (c) Third, to make grants for:
 - (A) Services critical or essential to aviation, including, but not limited to, fuel, sewer, water and weather equipment; or
 - (B) Aviation-related business development, including, but not limited to, hangars, parking for business aircraft and related facilities; or
 - (C) Airport development for local economic benefit, including, but not limited to, signs and marketing.
 - (D) Assisting commercial air service to rural Oregon.

SECTION 4: CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions to: grants@odav.oregon.gov

Or you may contact:

Andria Abrahamson

Program Coordinator

(503) 302-3645

Andria.Abrahamson@odav.oregon.gov

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Program Coordinator

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Appendices

The Appendices in this document provide SAMPLE versions of the respective documents.

A-1 SAMPLE REVIEW FORM

Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) Statutory Review Form

COAR Application 2020

Application Year: 2020

Instructions:

- Please read the [Instructions to Reviewers](#) prior to completing this form. The instructions are available on the Oregon Department of Aviation website.
- **Comment areas are provided to note information critical to your evaluation: How you arrived at your decision.**
- Complete, save, and submit **one** review form for each application.
- Required fields are marked with a red asterisk (*)

Applicant Name:

Application Number:

Project Name

Airport Name

Reviewer Name *

ACT

Please generate and complete the [Conflict of Interest Form](#), and upload in the provided field below. *

Section 1:

	Meets Standard	Somewhat Meets Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Comments
Reduced Transportation Costs or Improved Access to Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the proposed transportation project reduce transportation costs for Oregon businesses or improve access to jobs and sources of labor?				
Economic Benefit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the proposed transportation project result in an economic benefit to the state?				

Critical Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the proposed transportation project a critical link connecting elements of Oregon's transportation system that will measurably improve utilization and efficiency of the system? 				
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Section 2:

Project Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much of the cost of the proposed transportation project can be borne by the applicant for the grant? 	0%-25%	26%-50%	51%-75%	76%-100%

Project Readiness* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the proposed transportation project ready for construction or ready for implementation? 	Project's Readiness to Start (in months)				
	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	Over 24

*As all projects are not construction projects, ODA will use the following definition for project readiness when scoring and ranking projects :
Whether a project is ready to **begin elements of work necessary to commence with construction in a reasonable timeframe**.
If the project does not involve construction, whether the project is **ready for implementation**.

Review members may use the following information, plus other knowledge when determining project readiness: Permitting, match financing, plan inclusion where necessary, land use approval, applicant capacity

Life Expectancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposed transportation project have a useful life expectancy that offers maximum benefit to the State? 	Expected Useful Life (in years)				
	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Over 20