

Justification for offering ODOT Material Sources

More than 90% of a highway consists of aggregate material. Aggregate material is a generic term used for material that “add bulk” to the transportation system, from common embankment to the top layer of pavement. Processed and unprocessed soil and rock are common types of “aggregate material.” Maintaining and constructing highways requires large volumes of high quality sources of aggregate materials located throughout the state.

Readily available sources of aggregate are integral to accomplishing ODOT’s Mission: To provide a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. Offering material sources is also consistent with the ODOT Sustainability plan which promotes effective and efficient use of resources, protection of the environment and reduction in oil consumption.

ODOT offers the use of state-owned or controlled (BLM, USFS, other) material sites from the ODOT Material Source Network, to maximize the highway work that can be accomplished with Oregon and Federal tax dollars.

By effectively managing the ODOT material source network, ODOT is able to offer sources of material close to the projects. Having viable sources just a few miles closer to a project than an alternative site can result in significant savings on a project with large material needs. Reducing haul distance leads to fewer trucks, lower fuel consumption, less traffic congestion and limits the need to develop a previously undisturbed location.

It can be expensive and time consuming to identify, investigate, survey, environmentally clear and permit a source of materials. For many projects in areas without currently developed privately-owned sites, it is cost and time prohibitive for a contractor to develop a source for one specific project. In many rural areas of the state where developed sources of material are widely scattered, if they even exist, an ODOT offered source may provide the only viable option.

ODOT has documented that by offering viable, cost effective sources of high quality aggregate material within reasonable haul distances of projects, the number of contractors who can bid on a project increases. Audit reviews of bidding trends on ODOT projects have shown that as the total number of bids increase, ODOT sees more competitive bidding and better overall bid prices are received, thus providing a better value for the Oregon taxpayer.

Getting the best roadway improvement project value for the lowest cost is the primary objective for justifying offering ODOT owned or controlled sources of aggregate materials. This public benefit, resulting from increased competition stimulated by offering an alternative source of material, is received regardless of whether or not the ODOT offered material source is utilized for the project.