

Connect Oregon

Program Overview



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Program Overview

Prior to current cycle

- Connect Oregon is an initiative established by the 2005 state legislature to invest in non-highway modes of transportation.
- 7 competitive cycles between 2005-22
 - Over \$463 million awarded
 - 242 projects awarded
- Most recent cycle ran from 2021-22
 - \$46 million in funds awarded - \$130 million requested

Decision Considerations

Statutory

- Access to jobs/labor; reduced transportation costs*
- Economic benefits to state*
- Critical link for system*
- Required match
- Readiness*
- Useful life
- Proximity to mining aggregate

***More weight in considerations in staff scoring**



NEW: Additional considerations for breaking ties among close scoring projects; geographic mix, equity and climate/GHG impacts

Administrative Rule Context

- Statute sets out considerations and high-level goals
- OAR establishes the formal process elements
- After HB 2017 - Oregon Legislature asked ODOT to consider updating the procedures – meant amending the OAR
- These amendments completed in 2019
- Rule Committee comprised customers from across the state and two State Legislators

Administrative Rule Changes

- **Main Changes**
 - ❖ **Focus on strategic and best projects for the state – eliminate the 10% per Region requirement**
 - ❖ **Add readiness requirements/definitions**
 - ❖ **Minimum program size requirements**
 - ❖ **Removed Bike/Ped and Transit as eligible modes consistent with Statute**
- **Discussed But Not Changed**
 - ❖ **Maximum, Minimum Project Size**

Next Cycle Key Facts

Transportation projects eligible for funding

Rail, marine or aviation capital improvements

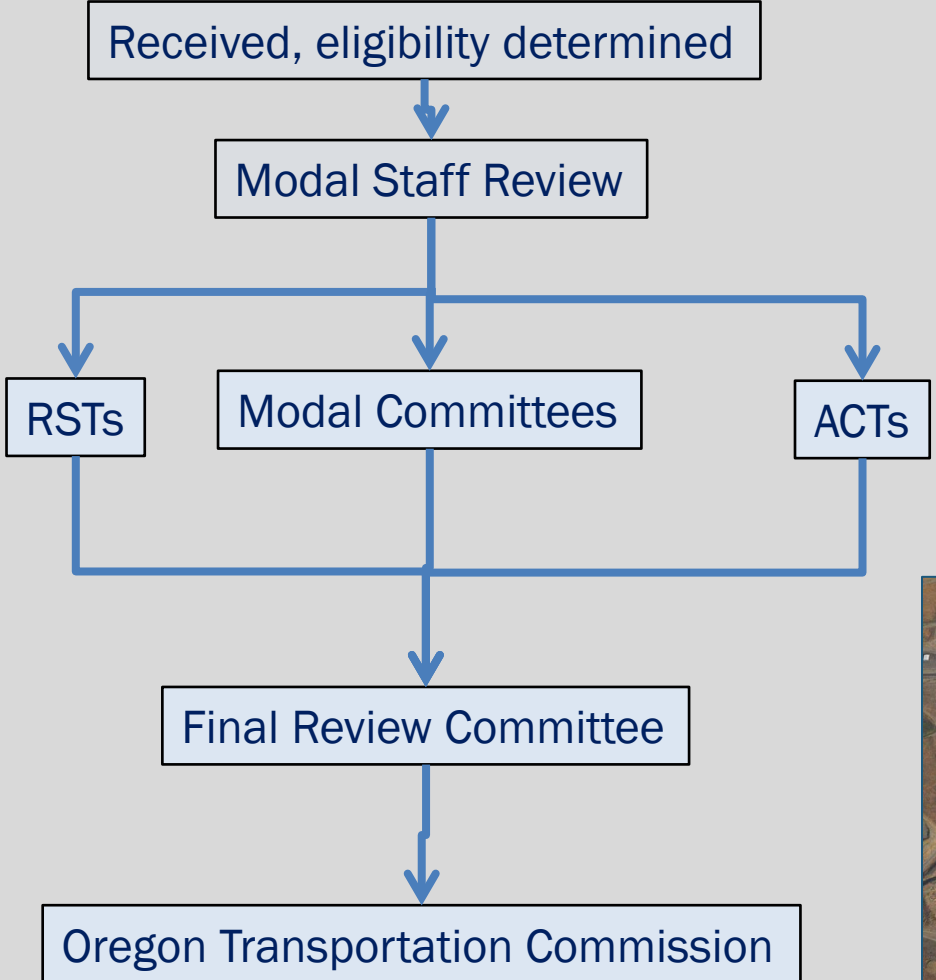
Projects chosen must show economic benefits to state; lower transportation costs

~\$46 million available for funding

Application deadline was February 29, 2024



Review process

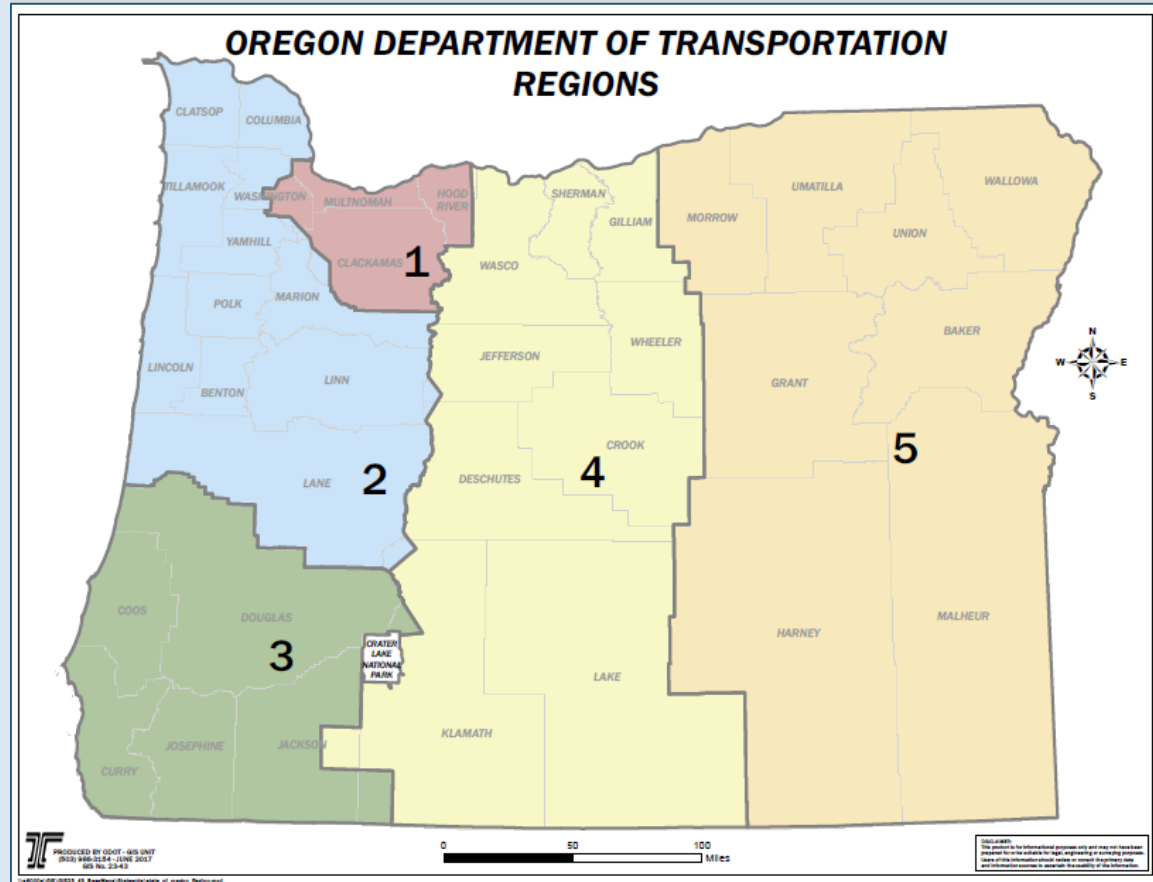


OTC anticipated to select projects in October 2024



Role of the Area Commissions on Transportation

- Provide rankings of projects within their ACT boundaries
- Then, as Region or “Super ACT” rank all projects within ODOT Region
- These rankings then are shared with the Final Review Committee



Final Review Committee

- 1 representative from each Region with one alternate to serve on Final Review Committee
 - 9 total; 5 from Regions, 4 from Modal Committees (Aviation, Marine, Rail and Freight)
- Rankings from the Regions are then blended with Modal Committee ranking – must be normalized first
 - E.g. Ranking 4 out of 12 is a higher ranking than 4 of 8.
- Final Review Committee to take inputs from all ACTs/committees, focus on the projects near the “cut line”

Connect Oregon 9 Applications Snapshot

The CO 9 Application Process Closed on February 29, 2024. ODOT received 36 Applications this round.

- 15 Aviation
- 11 Marine/Ports
- 10 Rail
- \$102 million requested.

Average - \$2.8 million. Median - \$1.9 million.