



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission


Office of the Director, MS 11

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301-3871

DATE: September 1, 2022

TO: Oregon Transportation Commission



FROM: Kristopher W. Strickler
Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H: Innovative Mobility Program (IMP) Update

Requested Action:

Receive an informational update and provide feedback on engagement and program development work for the Innovative Mobility Program.

Background:

This spring, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) approved \$10 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) flexible federal funding and \$10 million in state funding for an Innovative Mobility Program. The OTC provided input to staff on the Innovative Mobility Program (IMP) framework and directed staff to involve historically excluded groups in program development and delivery.

The IMP is a new initiative that aims to improve access to public transportation, reduce the number of trips Oregonians make by car, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through innovative projects. The IMP has a special focus on equity and helping historically excluded groups get to where they need to go more quickly, cheaply and safely. At the same time it will focus on building capacity with community based organizations to remove barriers to access.

The IMP offers statewide competitive rolling grants and contracted services for transportation projects. Micro Grants are now available on a continuous basis for \$5,000 for transportation projects that help underserved groups get where they need to go. Local governments, public transportation providers, Tribes and certified nonprofits are eligible to apply. Applications can be found on the [IMP webpage](#). A request for proposals will be issued by September 2022 for contracted vanpool services that will be market services to low wage workers, shift workers, limited English proficiency, among other underserved groups. Vanpool vendors will be eligible to apply.

Staff are conducting outreach with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), transportation providers, local jurisdictions, and anyone interested in the program. A [webpage](#), 1-pager in Spanish and English, and a survey in Spanish and English have been developed to gather input for the development and implementation of the program. Large competitive grants and contracted services will be developed over the next year based on community input. A request for information and request for proposals will be

issued for consultant support to make IMP opportunities equitable and accessible to community-based organizations to provide run by/for members of historically excluded groups. The consultants will provide equity focused and technical support services to ODOT and interested applicants serving historically excluded groups that may have limited experience working with government and delivering transportation-related services.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Innovative Mobility Program 1-Pager
- Attachment 2 – Innovative Mobility Program Survey
- Attachment 3 – Innovative Mobility Program Micro Grant Application

Oregon Department of Transportation: Innovative Mobility Program

What is the Innovative Mobility Program?

The Innovative Mobility Program (IMP) is a new initiative from the Oregon Department of Transportation that aims to improve access to public transportation, reduce the number of trips Oregonians make by car, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The IMP has a special focus on [social equity](#) and helping historically excluded groups get where they need to go more quickly, cheaply and safely. The IMP is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed by Congress in November 2021, as well as state of Oregon funding. The program has a total of \$20 million for grants, contracts and administration from 2022-25.

ODOT is engaging communities, government agencies and transportation providers over the summer to find out which services people need, who is interested in providing them and what the barriers are to taking part in the program, especially for members of historically excluded groups.

Is the IMP a competitive grants program?

The IMP will include both competitive grants and contracted services. Grants will be awarded on both an annual and ongoing basis and judged on how well they meet the needs of historically excluded groups. Contracts will be awarded through a competitive public process. There is also a \$5,000 micro-grant program that is already up and running.

What is a “historically excluded group?”

ODOT is taking a wide view of what “historically excluded” means. BIPOC communities, those living on low incomes, living with disabilities, seniors and young people and LGBTQ+ are some examples, but projects serving any group that has been excluded or whose needs haven’t been met by our existing transportation system will be prioritized.

Who is eligible?

A broad range of organizations can apply for IMP funding, including:

- Charities, not-for-profits and businesses providing community services.
- Tribal, state, regional and local government agencies.
- Metropolitan planning organizations and transportation management associations.
- Transit agencies and transportation service providers.

What kinds of services will the Innovative Mobility Program fund?

The program can fund many transportation-related activities including (but not limited to):

- Pedal and electric bike lending libraries and bike shares.
- Electric scooter shares and lending libraries.
- Transportation wallets (which offer passes and credits for use on transit, bike-share, e-scooters, ride-share, and car-share in one package).
- Subsidized transit fares.
- Carpools and vanpools.
- Equipment (e.g., bike locks and helmets).
- Infrastructure (e.g., bike racks, safety signage, more accessible transit stops).
- Training and information (e.g., bike and scooter training, safety training, navigation training).
- Any other innovative services that achieve desired outcomes of making it easier to walk, bike, roll, share rides or take transit in an equitable and sustainable manner.

To find out more, email: Kazim.Zaidi@odot.oregon.gov

Innovative Mobility Program - ODOT Website Survey

This survey is designed to help the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to understand the transportation needs of people who have been underserved by our transportation system. It will assist ODOT in designing the new Innovative Mobility Program, which aims to provide climate-friendly, equitable and accessible options for travel.

1. In a typical week Which of the following forms of transportation do you use to get to work or access essential services (medical, grocery shopping, employment) on three or more days a week? (check all that apply)

- Walking
- Driving alone (including with children as passengers)
- Transit (bus/light rail/commuter rail/streetcar)
- Train (Amtrak)
- Scooter or e-scooter
- Pedal Bike
- E-Bike
- Carpool (where several people make a regular journey together in a single vehicle)
- Vanpool (like a carpool but with a larger vehicle, usually rented or run by a specialist provider)
- Other (please specify)

2. What are the biggest barriers you experience to using travel options other than driving alone?

- Access: There are none near me and/or I'm physically unable to use them
- Connections: There's no easy route from where I am to where I want to go/ I'm afraid of missing my connection
- Time: I can get to where I need to go but it takes too long
- Cost: They are too expensive
- Knowledge: I don't know how to use them
- Safety: I do not feel safe using them
- Timing: I need to travel after dark or at times where there is no service
- Reliability: I can't be sure I'll get to where I need to go on time

Other (please specify)

3. Which of the following services would result in the biggest improvement in your travel experiences?

	Significant negative impact	Slight negative impact	No impact	Slight positive impact	Significant positive impact
Urban vanpools with reduced costs for users through a public subsidy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural vanpools with reduced costs for users through a public subsidy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved park and ride facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike share programs (pedal and e-bike)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E-scooter share programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Statewide bike-share pass (joining one bike share allows you to use all others throughout Oregon)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A "transportation wallet" with passes and credits for use on transit, bike-share, e-scooters, ride-share, and car-share in one package	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

4. Using the list below, please rank which kinds of support are most likely to encourage you to use travel options other than driving alone?

- Free equipment: for example bike locks, helmets, bike racks
- Free training: e.g. cycling training, help navigating using public transit, e-scooter classes
- Infrastructure: e.g. improvements to bike parking, safety signage, more accessible transit stops, better lighting
- Financial support: e.g. subsidized fares, transportation wallet
- Encouragement/support: e.g. buddy matching, trip tracking, ways to set goals and track progress
- Easily accessible information about available options in my community (e.g. digital apps, signage)

5. Is there anything not mentioned in this survey that would encourage you to use travel options other than driving alone?

6. Where in Oregon do you live? (you can specify a town, city, county or general geographical area)

7. Which of the following best describes you? (select all that apply)

- Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latin American or Spanish origin
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, Alaska Native or Indigenous
- White or European American
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Some other race, ethnicity or origin
- Prefer not to answer
- Prefer to self-describe (please specify)

8. There are many other factors that can contribute to exclusion and marginalization. Do any of the following statements apply to you?

- I identify as a woman
- I am over 65
- I am under 21
- I identify as LGBTQ+
- I am living on a low income (earning less than \$30,000/year for a family of 4 or \$15,000/year for a single person)
- I am living with a disability
- I am a veteran
- English is my second language/I have limited English proficiency
- I experience exclusion based on something not listed here (please specify)

9. If you would like to receive updates about the ODOT Innovative Mobility Program, please provide your contact information below. Your information will be kept strictly confidential.



Innovative Mobility Program: Micro-grant request

The Innovative Mobility Program (IMP) is a new initiative from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) that aims to improve access to public transportation, reduce the number of trips Oregonians make by car, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The IMP has a special focus on equity and helping historically excluded groups to get to where they need to go more quickly, cheaply and safely. ODOT is offering micro-grants to help meet these needs.

The maximum dollar amount for the micro-grants is \$5,000 per project. Local governments, public transportation providers, Tribes and certified nonprofits are eligible to apply. Organizations are limited to two grants in a 12-month period.¹

Applicants are required to demonstrate how their project supports historically excluded groups and increases social equity. You can find out more about how the State of Oregon approaches social equity [here](#).

1. General Information

PROJECT NAME		AMOUNT REQUESTED	DATE REQUESTED
NAME	TITLE	PHONE	
ORGANIZATION NAME		EMAIL	

If you are a nonprofit, please attach proof of your status as a legal entity, such as a copy of your IRS Determination Letter.

2. Project Details

PROJECT STATUS	PROJECT NAME
TYPE OF PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> Community Events (e.g. Sunday Streets, Open Streets events) <input type="checkbox"/> Safety education and awareness activities and programs to inform pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on ped/bike safety <input type="checkbox"/> Maps (for pedestrians/bicyclists/transit) <input type="checkbox"/> Signage for pedestrian or bicycle routes <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle helmets (tied to safety promotion) <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle parking (bike racks or lockers) * <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle repair station (air pump, simple tools) * <input type="checkbox"/> Any other projects that increase equitable access to climate-friendly forms of transportation and make it easier for people to walk, bike, and roll, rideshare or take transit.**	
*If you selected bike racks, lockers or repair station, please attach documentation to demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Product selected and estimated cost 2. You have an approved location for installation 3. You have funding and/or a plan in place for installation 4. The site does not impede right-of-way or constitute an ADA hazard (Americans with Disabilities Act) 	
**If you selected the “any other projects” option, please explain how your proposal achieves the program goals in the project summary section below.	

¹ This limit has been adopted for the initial phase of the program and may be subject to change as the program develops and the level of demand becomes clearer.

3. Project Summary: Provide a summary of the problem/need that the project will address. Priority will be given to projects that increase access for historically excluded groups. The program takes a broad view of what constitutes a historically excluded group. Black, Indigenous and People of Color, veterans, those experiencing low wages, living with disabilities, older adults, and young people and LGBTQ+ are examples. Projects that make a clear case for serving any group that has been excluded or whose needs have not been met by our existing transportation system will be prioritized.

TEXT FIELD WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE. CLICK TAB TO SEE TEXT IN EXPANDED FIELD.

4. Outcomes: Demonstrate how you will measure/evaluate the outcomes against the program's equity and climate goals. Examples include:

- Collecting demographic information on the beneficiaries of the grant.
- Estimating number of car trips reduced by the project funded by the grant.
- Estimating how many people have learned to safely use a new form of transportation.
- Surveying beneficiaries to determine their level of satisfaction with the outcomes of the project funded by the grant.

TEXT FIELD WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE. CLICK TAB TO SEE TEXT IN EXPANDED FIELD.

5. Submission: Click the Submit button to email the completed form. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Sellers at: Jennifer.Sellers@odot.oregon.gov or (503) 480-5556.

SUBMIT