

Enhance Highway Discretionary Program in the 2024-2027 STIP

Outcomes

The Enhance Highway Discretionary Program will make operational enhancements to state highways to improve the movement of people and goods in order to enhance the economy of Oregon.

Eligibility

Projects must provide benefits in one or more of the following outcome areas to be eligible for funding.

- Congestion relief—Reduce hours of delay on state highways.
- Freight mobility—Reduce freight delay or remove barriers to movement on key freight corridors

Additional Benefits

In addition to the eligibility criteria, projects will be evaluated in terms of their benefits in other important outcome areas. Projects need not provide benefits in all outcome areas.

- Safety—Reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
- Multimodal accessibility—Improve the ability to access key locations by non-automobile modes.
- Equity—Improve economic and social well-being for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), low-income Oregonians, and others who have been marginalized.
- Climate mitigation and adaptation and sustainability—Minimize negative impacts to climate and the environment.

Projects will be evaluated for their ability to cost-effectively provide benefits across the eligibility criteria and outcome areas.

Types of Projects

Eligible projects must be located on state highways. Multimodal elements are eligible for funding as part of a larger highway project but these should not be the primary focus of the project as they are eligible for funding in Non-Highway programs. Projects that include only planning, project development, and preliminary engineering activities and do not include a construction phase are eligible.

Illustrative project types include:

- Auxiliary lanes
- Passing lanes
- Truck climbing lanes
- Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and other technology improvements
- Freight corridor improvements (including curve corrections, vertical clearance improvements, and other projects for over dimension trucks on key freight corridors)
- Truck parking
- Intermodal freight connections (ie from roads to ports or railyards)
- Interchange improvements

- Intersection improvements or turning lanes

Project Proposal, Review and Selection

- All project proposals will be generated by ODOT regions or central programs. Local governments may work with ODOT regions to develop a project proposal for a priority state highway project.
- Prior to developing proposals, ODOT staff will meet with Area Commissions on Transportation to explain the program, set expectations, and consult with ACTs about regional priorities to allow local governments to surface proposals that ODOT will consider bringing forward.
- The proposal form should be simple but provide enough information to assess the project and its benefits in order to make funding decisions.
- Based on proposals, a cross-divisional and cross-regional Proposal Review Team will develop a 200% list totaling approximately \$130 million in projects.
- ODOT will share the 200% project list with ACTs and ask for their feedback and comments.
- The Proposal Review Team will take ACT feedback and comments into account and develop a final project list.
- The OTC will review the final project list.

Geographic Balance

The Enhance Highway Discretionary Program will be a statewide program where funding flows to the best projects across the state. To ensure geographic balance, ODOT will provide projects in rural areas (outside metropolitan planning organization boundaries) a minimum of 30% of total funding and set a goal of distributing projects across the geography of Oregon.