



# Connect Oregon Grant Program

## Program overview

The Connect Oregon Grant Program provides competitive grant funding for air, rail and marine infrastructure projects.

## Eligible applicants

Public, private and nonprofit entities in Oregon that can meet the 30% matching funds requirement, and are able to complete their requested project.

## How grant funds can be used

Connect Oregon funds must be used for capital expenditures, not operating expenses. Examples of eligible expenditures:

- Land acquisition.
- Capital construction costs.
- New buildings or renovating existing buildings.
- Equipment with 20-year useful life (must remain with project.)
- Design and engineering professional services.

## Frequently asked questions

### How do I apply for the Connect Oregon funds?

All applications must be submitted online via the Connect Oregon webpage.

### How are projects selected for Connect Oregon funds?

Project reviewers consider the following themes when evaluating projects:

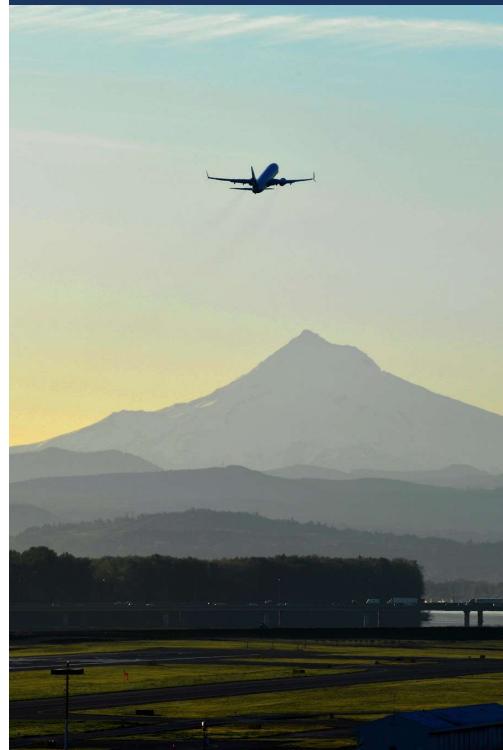
- Access to jobs/labor.
- Economic benefits.
- Project readiness.
- Completes critical transportation link.
- Useful life of project improvements.
- Proximity to mining aggregate.

If projects are closely scored or tied, reviewers may use applicant responses to climate change and equity questions as an additional evaluation tool.

## 2026 Funding Round

- Applications accepted
- Jan. 7 - Feb. 27 2026
- About \$75 million available.

[Click here to apply online at the Connect Oregon webpage](#)



## Contact us for help

### Program policy and proposed projects:

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### Awarded grant funds or projects in progress:

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## **Who selects projects for Connect Oregon funds?**

Project selection has several steps:

1. ODOT staff with expertise in air, rail or marine transportation review projects.
2. Local and modal transportation committees review projects in their geographic area or respective transportation mode.
3. A final review committee combines the multiple ranked lists into a final recommended funding list for ODOT's governing body the Oregon Transportation Commission.
4. The commission reviews and approves the final selected projects at one of their public meetings.

## **Can I use a federal grant as a match, or use a Connect Oregon grant as a match for a federal grant?**

Yes to both scenarios. Many past recipients have used Connect Oregon grant funds in concert with other federal grant funding.

One potential issue is timing: we suggest you review application timelines and other requirements for various grant funding programs to ensure everything lines up with your needs.

## **Are there minimum or maximum awards for transportation modes or geographic areas?**

No, however if some projects are closely ranked or tied, reviewers may consider regional equity of fund distribution.

## **Is there a minimum or maximum allowed funding request?**

No. Applicants may request any amount of the available funding. In the most recent funding round, awarded funds ranged from \$150,000 to \$14 million for individual projects.

## **When are awarded funds distributed?**

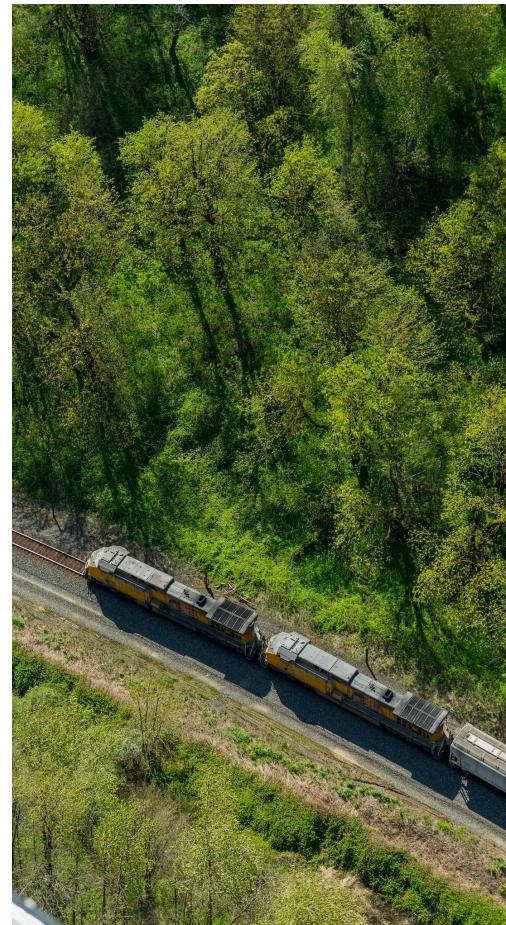
After project completion. Connect Oregon is a reimbursement program. You may only request a reimbursement after you have paid your eligible project costs.

## **How can I check the status of my application?**

ODOT staff will keep applicants updated on their application status, and where it is in the review process, via email or phone.

## **What is the required funding match?**

The program requires that award recipients provide at least 30% matching funds (50% for Class I railroads.) There are many sources that can contribute toward your match.



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