

Pavement condition: Percent of pavement centerline miles rated “fair” or better out of total centerline miles in the state highway system

Our strategy

The goal of the ODOT pavement preservation program is to keep highways in the best condition possible with available funding, by taking a life-cycle cost approach to preservation and maintenance. Instead of following “worst-first”, the program applies a “mix of fixes” including preventive maintenance seal coats, preservation resurfacing, and rehabilitation projects. The program follows an asset management strategy to reduce the impacts of declining pavement conditions across the system.

About the target

A higher percentage of miles in good condition translates to smoother roads and

lower pavement and vehicle repair costs. Prior to 2014, the long-term target was set at 78 percent “fair” or better. The legislature increased the target to 87 percent for 2014 and 2015 and subsequently reduced the target to 85 percent starting in 2016. Pavement conditions are measured every two years. The latest data available is 2024. The next update for 2026 data will be available in February 2027.

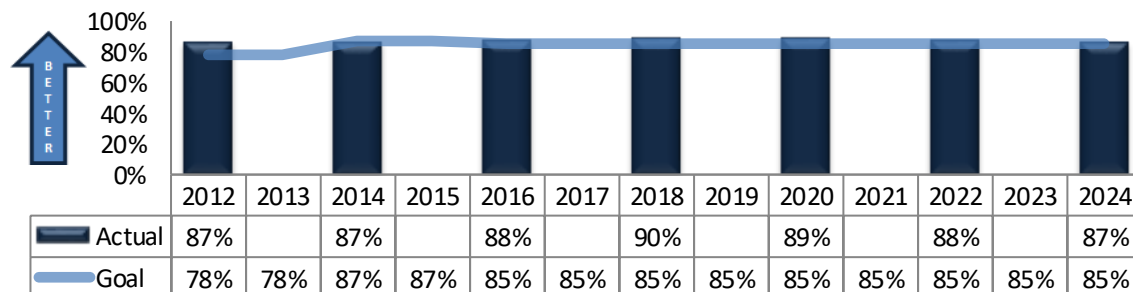
How we are doing and how we compare

Thanks to ODOT’s asset management and investment strategies, pavement condition over the last few years has ranged between 85 and 90 percent “fair” or better, which is

above target. ODOT’s pavement strategy prioritizes the interstate, with lower condition priorities for other routes. A new federal standard for comparing national highway system (NHS) pavement conditions nationwide looks at pavement smoothness, cracking, rutting and faulting data. A comparison between Oregon and our neighboring states based on 2022 data, which is the most recent comparison, shows that Oregon’s pavement is on par with California and Washington and worse than Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Utah.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/reporting/national/>

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Fact

Pavement funding levels are below one-quarter of the actual need for pavement preservation and major repairs.

Pavement Condition, cont.

Factors affecting results and what needs to be done

Pavement conditions peaked in 2018 and have been declining since that time. Pavement funding reductions and inflationary effects have resulted in an insufficient investment in pavement preservation and maintenance. The percentage of good pavement is at its lowest level since 2001 and the growing bubble of fair pavement will soon turn poor. Pavement conditions will drop below target well before the end of the decade.

At today's prices, an estimated \$400 million per year is needed to repair the backlog of high-cost poor and very poor highways, while keeping the remaining state highways in "fair or better" condition. This funding level would support major repairs needed on routes with the worst pavement conditions, while providing for timely preventive preservation and maintenance on roads in fair to good condition.

Actual pavement funding levels are below one-quarter of the \$400 million need. Funding levels for 2021 through 2027 averaged \$112 million per year. Pavement funding for 2028 through 2030 is down to only \$33 million per year. Similarly, declining revenues have also forced ODOT to cut pavement maintenance and patching budgets by 25%. Meanwhile, pavement

repair costs have rapidly increased due to inflation (up 50% from just 5 years ago).



Pavement resurfacing treatments typically last 10 to 30 years, but current pavement funding can only afford to keep up with paving interstate highways. Other sections of road off the interstate must be deferred indefinitely.

Inflationary factors coupled with deep cuts to pavement repair budgets in both the STIP and Maintenance programs will lead to rapid declines in pavement condition over the next decade. This will result in diminished safety, as well as higher vehicle repair costs as Oregonians travel on rutted and deteriorated roads. As road conditions

deteriorate, thicker paving and/or complete replacement will become necessary at a higher cost than what would be required to simply maintain them in fair or better condition. In the long run, Oregonians will pay more to rehabilitate this failed pavement than it would have cost to keep it in good condition.

About the data

Pavement conditions are measured via a combination of automated equipment and visual assessment. Rigorous checks are made on the data to ensure integrity. Conditions are measured and reported every two years on even numbered years. Our Pavement Condition Report provides detailed pavement condition data and statistical summaries across various parts of the highway system and is available online at <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Construction/Pages/Pavement-Condition.aspx>

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Data source

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