

Number: 25-84

Proposed Title:

Performance measures to track and monitor ODOT equity progress

1. Concisely describe the **transportation issue (including problems, improvements, or untested solutions) that Oregon needs to research.**

Monitoring equity in transportation involves assessing various factors that impact different demographic groups and communities. Implementing practical equity measures that are effective to monitor progress can be difficult for several reasons: a) equity is a relatively new concept and therefore legacy procedures, manuals, and data collection practices have not been conceived or designed taking into account equity considerations, b) equity requires data and knowledge about communities, demographic groups, and issues that are usually not reflected in traditional transportation decision-making, policy, processes, planning, design, and construction.

The main goal of this research proposal is to develop equity definitions, methods, and metrics that are more inclusive of low-income and BIPOC populations.

2. Document how this **transportation issue is important to Oregon and will meet the [Oregon Research Advisory Committee Priorities](#)**

The focus of this proposal is on equity and is directly related to one of the priorities of the Oregon Transportation Plan Strategic Action Plan: equity. It is also directly related to the strategic directions of “Social Equity”.

Without proper monitoring of equity performance measures, it is not possible to: a) identify disparities and inequalities in terms transportation access, affordability, safety, and mobility, b) assess the impact of short, medium, and long-term policies and investments that seek to ameliorate disparities, and c) enhance public trust and engagement in communities that not received adequate attention or funding.

3. What **final product or information needs to be produced to enable this research to be implemented?**

This research will focus on the development of metrics, using quantitative and qualitative indicators that encompass various dimensions of transportation equity, such as accessibility, affordability, safety, and environmental justice. The research output will include sets of metrics and measures that can be implemented in the short-term because relevant data is available and/or compiled by other local, state, or federal agencies. Another key output will be the identification of data limitations in terms of temporal/spatial granularity, limitations than can hinder the equity monitoring or future developments in terms of equity tracking measures or indexes. The identification of data silos, or fragmented data, within ODOT is another important outcome. For transportation agencies, having areas (regions) or divisions that focus on safety, operations, policy, and construction may have important benefits in terms of focus and specialization but are problematic in terms of equity that usually cuts across administrative/jurisdictional or modal boundaries.

4. (Optional) Are there any individuals in Oregon who will be instrumental to the success of implementing any solution that is identified by this research? If so, please list them below.

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Becky Knudson	Sr. Transportation Economist	Rebecca.A.KNUDSON@odot.oregon.gov	
Matt T. Bagwell	Research Office	Matt.T.BAGWELL@odot.oregon.gov	

5. Other comments:

ODOT has been a leader in transportation research and innovation. Focusing on transportation equity monitoring is a timely research idea due to the growing awareness and advocacy in relation to social justice issues. Being proactive designing and collecting data for sensible equity performance metrics will likely have long-term benefits for ODOT and the Oregon transportation system.

6. Corresponding Submitter's Contact Information:

Name:	Miguel Figliozi
Title:	Professor
Affiliation:	Portland State University
Telephone:	503 725 2836
Email:	figliozi@pdx.edu