

Oregon Research Advisory Committee Priorities:

ODOT Research Advisory Committee priorities are intended to provide general guidance to agency staff, university researchers, and other stakeholders as they propose research topics for inclusion in the agency's research work plan. Additionally these priorities will guide the work of the research staff and the agency expert task groups during the review of proposed research problem statements.

Project Topic Priorities:

The Research Advisory Committee has identified the following transportation topics as priority for research work:

- **Safety** – This includes research aimed to improve the safety of the traveling public in any mode, transportation worker-safety, and the transportation system safety related impacts on other individuals or organizations.
- **Mobility, Reliability and Resilience** – This includes research into technologies, methods, or policies that increase the ability of any transportation mode to consistently perform as designed, supports efficient system operations, extends useful life, or increases system resiliency (from seismic or climate-induced interruptions).
- **Communities and Environment** – This includes research to improve our knowledge of or supports connections between transportation and the state's communities, and natural systems, or climate. It may also include ways to mitigate negative transportation impacts to these communities and systems, or support equitable access to transportation to historically and currently underserved communities.
- **Economy** – This includes transportation research that improves our knowledge of the economics of the transportation of people or goods. This also includes research into cost savings for the delivery of transportation infrastructure and services and mechanisms for financing infrastructure.
- **Improve and Modernize Technology and Data** – This includes research that seeks to advance the knowledge to adapt the current system to the rapid technological advances in all aspects of transportation.

Program Administration Priorities:

The Research Advisory Committee has also identified the following program management goals for research proposals.

- Project selection should achieve balance with regard to addressing short, medium and longer term Oregon transportation needs.
- Project selection should focus primarily on applied transportation research that will support the ongoing work of the State's transportation workforce in providing transportation infrastructure, system management, and transportation services.
- Research proposals should be supported by the end user of the expected project output. The research sponsor should be prepared to champion the implementation of successful research by dedicating staff, budget, and other resources to incorporating the research findings into the daily work of the agency.
- Research should position the agency for the future by studying emerging transportation technologies across modes, services, and research topic areas.
- Research should support technology transfers that connect the agency's workforce with completed research that validates recent innovations, modernized systems, and supports professional development.

Unidentified Research Needs

To be effective the research selection process needs to be flexible enough to consider new concepts; therefore these priorities are to be considered guidance and not criteria. Proposals that address the transportation needs of Oregon in ways not identified may be selected. Stakeholders are advised to submit useful proposals to the research program for consideration, and the agency Staff and Expert Task Groups are encouraged to advise the Research Advisory Committee of the merits of all promising research opportunities.