

Oregon Research Advisory Committee Priorities:

ODOT Research Advisory Committee priorities provide 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.

Research Outcome Priorities:

The Research Advisory Committee has identified the following desired post-research outcomes. The highest priority research proposals should:

- Produce solutions that can be used by the transportation workforce to improve the provision of transportation in Oregon. Research will deliver modern transportation technologies and processes that are ready for direct dissemination to and use by the transportation workforce.
- Support equitable outcomes for individuals, groups, and institutions. This priority applies to both research focused explicitly on the equitable delivery of transportation services as well as the equitable effects of all research topic areas.
- Support the integration of State of Oregon climate actions into all activities conducted by the Oregon Department of Transportation and partner transportation agencies and service providers.
- Have demonstrated institutional (e.g. ODOT Branch or Division) support that has committed staff or budget resources for post research implementation of the expected research findings.

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.
- Communities and Environment – This includes research that improves our knowledge of or supports connections between transportation and the state's communities or that supports equitable access to transportation by underrepresented members of the state's population. The State's communities include the natural and climate systems and the study of any transportation effects on these systems.

- 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.

Program Administration Priorities:

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

- All selected research projects should address at least one goal of the ODOT Strategic Action Plan (SAP). See: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/SAPDocs/SAP-one-pager.pdf> for a summary or <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Pages/SAP.aspx> for details. (Note: In the interest of receiving concise and targeted research problem statements, research proposals will not receive any additional priority consideration for addressing multiple goals.)
- Selected research will not impede the implementation of any SAP goal. While research will likely focus narrowly on advancing one SAP goal, foreseeable direct obstruction of the implementation of any SAP goals will be avoided.
- 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 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 invited to submit 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.

In an exceptional case, the RAC may select a research proposal that directly addresses one or more of the priority statements above. In this case, the research should have the potential to inform future strategic planning efforts or long-term agency needs.