



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:

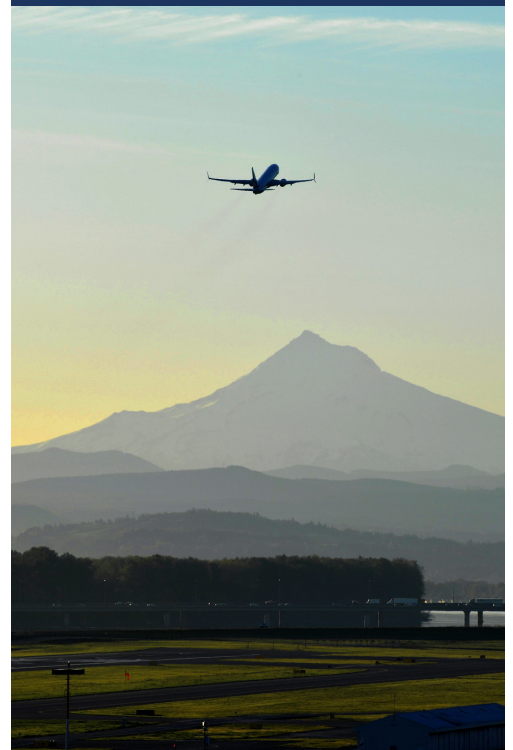
- Access to jobs/labor.
- Economic benefits.
- Project readiness.
- Completes critical transportation link.
- Useful life of project improvements.
- Proximity to mining aggregate.

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:

John Boren
503-951-0166
john.boren@odot.oregon.gov

Awarded grant funds or projects in progress:

Cece Gilbert
503-986-3528
Cecelia.gilbert@odot.oregon.gov

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?

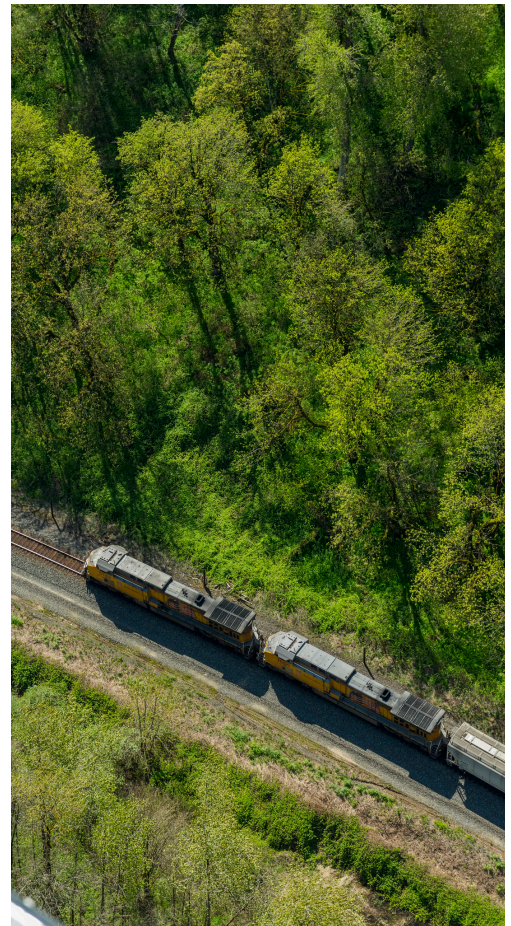
After project completion. Connect Oregon is a reimbursement program. You may only request a reimbursement after you have paid your eligible project costs.

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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