

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION and OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Purpose

The Oregon Health Authority's mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention and access to quality, affordable health care. The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division ("OHA-PHD") promotes health and prevents the leading causes of death, disease and injury in Oregon. Guiding values for the work of OHA-PHD are service excellence, leadership, integrity, partnership, innovation and health equity. The Oregon Department of Transportation ("ODOT") provides a safe and reliable multimodal transportation system that connects people and helps Oregon's communities and economy thrive. The values guiding ODOTs work are integrity, safety, equity, excellence, and unity.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby made and entered into between OHA-PHD and ODOT, hereinafter referred to as "parties.". The purpose of this MOU is to guide the parties in working collaboratively to identify, develop and promote the connections between public health and transportation.

The parties voluntarily enter this MOU under the authority granted in the Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 190.010 which provides that State of Oregon agencies may enter into agreements with units of local government or other state agencies for any or all functions and activities that those agencies have the authority to perform.

## Background

Transportation is essential to Oregon's quality of life and economic health. A sound multimodal transportation system supports our existing economy, reduces the cost of congestion and inefficiency, and links us together. The transportation system serves important functions for all people in Oregon; employees commuting to work, children going to and from school, older adults getting to and from health care, farmers shipping crops to market, businesses receiving materials for use in manufacturing, high-tech manufacturers sending their products across the globe, consumers buying groceries at the local market, and visitors exploring our beautiful state. An efficient and effective transportation system is critical for maintaining and enhancing Oregon's economy and quality of life.

Population health is largely determined by the social determinants of health, including the built environment such as roadways. Transportation interrelates to health in several areas. For example, car travel and the availability of walking, biking, and public transportation options affect physical activity, weight, heart health, rates of vehicle fatalities and injuries, and mental health (e.g. road rage, social isolation). Vehicle emissions are related to higher rates of respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, adverse pregnancy outcomes, climate change and environmental hazards (e.g. pollution, water quality, heat islands).

ODOT is responsible for only a portion of the transportation facilities, primarily interstates and state highways, but also funds local projects and works closely with local governments, public transit systems, railroads and others to develop and maintain a safe and reliable transportation system. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) is responsible for developing and maintaining state transportation policy. To fulfill this obligation, the OTC collaborates with a variety of stakeholders. There are eleven Area Commissions on Transportation (ACT) around the state, chartered by the OTC, and they provide guidance to the OTC in both the development of policy and the selection of projects.

Oregon's Public Health system is comprised of OHA-PHD, 33 local public health authorities and community organizations who work to prevent disease and injury and promote and protect health. OHA-PHD operates some statewide programs directly, while others are delivered through local public health authorities. For those public health services delivered by local public health authorities and districts, OHA-PHD provides partial funding, technical support, and oversight. Governance for the OHA-PHD is provided by the Public Health Advisory Board, a subcommittee of the Oregon Health Policy Board which advises Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

### **Agreement**

The parties agree to communicate, coordinate and collaborate on activities that support their mutual goal to improve the link between public health and transportation policies and programs in Oregon.

OHA-PHD and ODOT recognize that social determinants of health, such as living conditions and travel behaviors, are a key factor in the overall health of the population and transportation is intrinsically linked with human health. ODOT and OHA-PHD will work together to meet Oregonian's mobility and health needs, while balancing the state's other complex interests.

### **Partnership Goals**

- Improve traffic safety
- Increase active transportation options
- Improve air quality and reduce exposure to air pollution
- Improve equitable access to employment, education, health care, healthy food and other resources
- Improve preparedness for emergencies

### **Objectives**

#### **1. Coordinate policy and planning**

OHA-PHD and ODOT have a shared interest in coordinated policy development and planning efforts to achieve the goals for the partnership. The parties will ensure mutual representation on advisory and rule-making bodies and committees at all levels of government. The parties will coordinate on policy proposal development and implementation.

## **2. Foster alignment of health and transportation goals at state and local levels.**

OHA-PHD and ODOT will strive to improve communication and enhance relationships between the parties and between the transportation and health communities in Oregon. The parties will hold regular meetings and coordinate initiatives. Periodic updates will be provided to the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Public Health Advisory Board. The parties will conduct outreach to local communities and stakeholders about the connection between health and transportation for the purpose of creating a shared understanding. OHA-PHD and ODOT will aim to connect key local partners across the State of Oregon, such as members of ODOT's Area Commissions on Transportation, the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee, the Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII, Coordinated Care Organizations, Local Public Health Authorities and the Coalition of Community Health Clinics. OHA-PHD and ODOT will identify potential resources and leverage funding to support this collaboration. In addition, the parties will seek opportunities for joint funding by highlighting the interconnectedness of health and transportation in planning and development.

## **3. Collaborate on research and data analysis**

OHA-PHD and ODOT conduct research and collect data on injuries, deaths, physical activity and other related areas of interest. The parties will work together to combine research work, and share data sources, where appropriate. Together, they will work to identify the best tools available for analyzing the link between transportation and health on a state, regional or project scale. This effort will include an assessment of forecast models and Health Impact Assessments.

The MOU was first signed in 2013. Given the changing landscape of health and transportation in the past six years, in 2018 the parties determined a revision of the MOU would be beneficial to more accurately capture the work in place and goals for the future. The process to achieve the shared goals will be multi-faceted, iterative and will require flexibility and innovation. The co-developed work plan will provide an up to date summary of strategies and activities being implemented in partnership by the parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties hereto have through their respective duty authorized representatives, executed this MOU as follows:

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Name:

Title:

Date Signed:

**OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY – PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**

Name:

Title:

Date Signed: