

Summary - Tech Memo #1

Plans and Policy Review

Tech Memo #1 summarizes the state and local plans and policies that are applicable to the OR 62 Corridor Plan.

Key Findings

- **Consistency with Statewide Goals:** The plan must support Oregon's transportation and land use goals, including safety, economic development, resilience to natural hazards, and multimodal access. The Transportation Planning Rule requires coordination between land use and transportation, which will guide this work.
- **Highway System Designations:** OR 62 is a designated expressway and freight route, making it vital for regional travel and goods movement. It is also a Tier 2 Lifeline Route, meaning it plays a critical role in emergency response and recovery.
- **Prior Environmental Review:** A 2013 Environmental Impact Statement for an OR 62 expressway from I-5 to Dutton Road recommended a full OR 62 expressway. This corridor plan will revisit that work by assessing whether the original purpose and need remain relevant today and by conducting a new transportation needs assessment.
- **Rail Considerations:** Freight rail lines in the study area support local industries and regional shipping. The corridor plan will consider potential impacts of future highway improvements on rail operations.
- **Aviation Access:** The Rogue Valley International–Medford Airport, located just south of the corridor, is a critical regional facility. Local and regional ground transportation to and from the airport via OR 62 will be a key consideration for the plan.
- **Multimodal Needs:** State and regional policies call for improving walking, biking, and transit access. The corridor will be evaluated for how it can better serve all modes of travel.
- **Safety Priorities:** Crash history along OR 62 highlights the need to advance Oregon's statewide goal of zero fatal and serious injury crashes.
- **Alignment with Local and Regional Plans:** The corridor plan must be consistent with Jackson County's Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan, while also coordinating with policies in surrounding communities. Regional and city-level plans identify some related projects, though most improvements are outside the immediate study area.