



Connect Oregon 2021 Project Grant Application

To ensure you have current program information, sign up for the [Connect Oregon electronic mailing list](#).

The *Draft Grant Agreement* and *Frequently Asked Questions* are available on the [Connect Oregon website](#).

You must complete all required fields and upload required documentation for your application to be eligible to compete.

You can save your progress via the 'Save' button in the lower right corner of the page and revisit this form as you go.

Applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 29, 2021.

Application ID

An application ID will be automatically generated as the application is filled out. You do not need to do anything here.

1. Applicant information

Complete this information for the applicant. Provide both a designated contact and an authorized representative (if different than the designated contact) for your entity. The authorized representative is someone who is authorized to make decisions and sign a funding agreement with ODOT should your project be chosen for funding.

Entity/Organization/Company Name *

Address *

Website address *

Contact person name *

Contact person title *

Email *

Phone *

Authorized representative name, if different from the applicant contact

2. Entity type

Entity type *
 Public Private Non-profit

Choose the entity type that best describes the applicant entity. Private/non-profit organization will be asked to provide their business registry number from the Oregon Secretary of State's Corporation Division.

3. Project name and location

The project name should be brief, and clearly describe the project. The name you provide will be used in summary reports and other published materials. The project location should include county and state, and if applicable, the city where the project is physically located. Provide GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude).

Project name *

 Check this box if the project address is the same as the address listed above.
Project address, (or nearest street intersection or landmark)

State



Latitude (degrees and decimal) *

Longitude (degrees and decimal) *

To find the latitude and longitude, you can use Google Maps or other mapping service. Within Google Maps, you can right-click on the location of the project, select "What's here?", to get the address and the coordinates.

For example, the State Capitol Building's coordinates are 44.938422, -123.030740, thus 44.938422 goes into the Latitude box, and -123.030740 goes into the Longitude box.

4. Mode *

- Aviation
- Marine
- Rail, Short Line
- Rail, Class I Railroad

Check the appropriate box for the primary mode of transportation improved by the project.

5. Connect Oregon region *

- Region 1 Region 2
- Region 3 Region 4
- Region 5

Check the appropriate box to identify the Connect Oregon region for your project. You may not select more than one CO region. If a project falls within more than one CO region, identify the primary region for the project.

[Click for a CO Region map](#)

6. Brief summary of project *

500 character limit. Provide a brief summary of project that clearly defines what is being constructed and the transportation asset resulting from the proposed project. Should your project be selected for funding, the summary will become the scope of work in your agreement.

Example: Project will rehabilitate 5,300 feet of runway along with associated improvements such as 10,600 feet of underdrain, lighting rewiring, etc.

7. Project purpose and description *

4,500 character limit. Provide a detailed project purpose, need and description, including the economic and public benefits that will result from the project with citations of verifiable sources. Include whether the project has independent utility or whether it is dependent on future phases to be fully functional. The summary should include what the project will do or build and who will benefit from it. If the Connect Oregon portion is part of a larger project, briefly describe the larger project.

8. Useful life (years) *

Provide the expected useful life of the project. Maximum scoring for this consideration is available when the useful life is 20 years or greater. Explain how this figure was calculated and cite sources to justify your conclusion. Cited sources may include industry standards, previously documented projects, research papers, etc.













In some cases, a project may have a documented useful life that is different from the common actual life. For instances, airfield lighting and signage may have FAA designated useful life of 10 years; however, due to exceptional maintenance and other conditions, the historical useful life has been 20 years. Applicants should document this difference and explain.

Review the Sample Draft Agreement to ensure the project design will be able to meet the contractual useful life. The Sample Draft Agreement identifies the useful life of a construction project as 20 years.

9. Project schedule

Answer whether milestones above have been met; fill in projected start and completion dates. For planning purposes, we anticipate executing funding agreements within 3 months of projects being awarded by the Oregon Transportation Commission. Funding agreements are anticipated to be executed in Summer 2022, with construction needing to begin within one year from agreement execution, and be completed within three years of execution. Project schedule should demonstrate how the project will meet this requirement. Milestones 4 and 5 should reflect the dates the plans are ready and a construction contract is awarded for the first construction contract to complete the project.

- Scoping and planning means the development of the project size and scope, determination of operational requirements, and required public comment periods.
- Right-of-way and land acquisition means the process of securing land for the project site, including purchases, leases, eminent domain/condemnation, and the acquisition of required easements.
- Permits means the process of securing any required permits, approvals, or permission from any local, state, or federal agency.
- Final plans/bidding engineering documents means the development of any structural or operational documents required to advertise and build the project.
- Construction contract award means the securing of a contract to build, install, or otherwise prepare the project for operations or use.
- Project completion means construction or installation is complete and the project is ready for operation or use.

Milestone 1: Scoping and planning	Has the milestone been met? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Projected start date of milestone work <input type="text"/> 	Projected milestone completion date <input type="text"/> 
Milestone 2: Right of way and land acquisition	Has the milestone been met? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Projected start date of milestone work <input type="text"/> 	Projected milestone completion date <input type="text"/> 
Milestone 3: Permits	Has the milestone been met? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Projected start date of milestone work <input type="text"/> 	Projected milestone completion date <input type="text"/> 
Milestone 4: Final plans/bidding engineering documents	Has the milestone been met? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Projected start date of milestone work <input type="text"/> 	Projected milestone completion date <input type="text"/> 
Milestone 5: Construction contract award	Has the milestone been met? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Projected start date of milestone work <input type="text"/> 	Projected milestone completion date <input type="text"/> 
Milestone 6: Project completion	Has the milestone been met? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Projected start date of milestone work <input type="text"/> 	Projected milestone completion date <input type="text"/> 

10. Will the project's construction schedule be constrained by environmental considerations (bird-nesting, fish-spawning seasons, temperature or weather)?

- Yes
 No

Indicate whether the project has any seasonal environmental limitations on construction at the project site. Note limitations for a "yes" answer. Will the project's construction schedule be constrained by environmental considerations (bird-nesting, fish-spawning seasons, temperature or weather)? Please explain and provide limitation dates.

11. Who was responsible for determining the project schedule and what is their level of expertise? (i.e. city or consulting engineer, construction project manager, city staff, etc.)

500 character limit. Identify who determined the schedule, their level of expertise (i.e. Engineer, certified construction project manager, etc.), and describe what makes them qualified to determine the schedule.

12. Project property control

Property used for a Connect Oregon project must be committed for such use for 20 years following construction. If the property is not yet secured, describe the steps and timeline to complete the transaction(s). Note: All property transactions must be completed 60 days prior to OTC final selection of projects.

Identify the method of control for project property

- Wholly or partially owned by applicant
- Long-term lease for 20 years following project completion
- Property not yet purchased or leased

13. Describe any project risks or barriers to being ready for construction and your plan to address the risks/barriers

1000 character limit. Describe any risks to the delivery of the project schedule provided. Discuss the length of any required permitting processes, property acquisition, or other parts of the project schedule that are subject to a high level of uncertainty.

14. Describe your public and stakeholder engagement process efforts







1,000 character limit. Stakeholder involvement means the involvement and coordination of all interested parties including elected officials, local citizens, business and industry representatives, modal representatives, etc. Describe the efforts you have made to inform the public and stakeholders and how you have involved them in the decision-making process. Include public/stakeholder concerns that have arisen during your outreach process

15. Public body approvals and permits

Identify all public body approvals and permits needed to complete the project; indicate the status of each approval/permit. Add approvals/permits as needed. Below are descriptions of some likely approvals/permits projects are subject to. Other potentially required permits may involve wetlands, material sources, fish passage, airport clearance, railroad clearance, waterways and other federal, state and/or local requirements All permits needed for construction must be secured within nine months following execution of a grant funding agreement.


- A Categorical Exclusion (CE) determination is a level of analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) whereby an undertaking has been categorically excluded from a detailed environmental analysis if it meets certain criteria that a federal agency has previously determined as having no significant environmental impact. (For more information see: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/index.html>.)
- An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a NEPA document prepared for projects or decisions (including project funding) by federal agencies that includes a written environmental analysis to determine whether a federal undertaking would significantly affect the environment. (For more information see: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>)
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document, required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared for projects or decisions (including project funding) by federal agencies, which includes a detailed environmental evaluation of the proposed action and possible alternative actions. (For more information see: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>) Unless a required EIS is close to completion, needing one means a project is not construction ready.
- Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD) may be required under Oregon’s air quality regulations, adopted by the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission under OAR 340-200-0040 and approved by the EPA. Oregon’s air quality regulations establish rules and standards for determining air quality conformity for transportation plans, programs and projects within Oregon (OAR 340 Division 252). These regulations contain all federal requirements plus additional state standards. (For more information see: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/GeoEnvironmental/Pages/Air.aspx>)
- Identify if in-water work permits are required for the project. More information can be found at the following websites: <http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/PERMITS/r-fintro.shtml> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/inwater/>.
- Identify if United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits are required for the project. More information can be found at the following website: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/>.
- Coordination with Native American tribal representatives is often required prior to construction. Projects located along or crossing borders may require coordination with jurisdictions and/or state agencies in bordering states.

Complete the following:

NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CE)	Status	Expected completion date
	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/> 
NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA)	Status	Expected completion date
	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/> 
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Status	Expected completion date
	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/> 
Air-quality conformity determination	Status	Expected completion date
	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/> 
In-water work permit	Status	Expected completion date
	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/> 
Army Corps of Engineers permit	Status	Expected completion date
	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/> 

Coordination of project approval with any Native American tribe or another state

Status

Expected completion date 

Any additional specific permits or approvals needed

Specific permit or approval needed	Status	Expected completion date
		

[+ Add Item](#)

16. Planning and land use

Demonstrate the project's compliance with land use documents identified below or describe how you will achieve compliance. Add any additional planning/land use efforts that are not listed. A limited land use decision must be complete within six months of the execution of a grant funding agreement. If the use is not permitted outright and/or requires a land use decision to be a legally allowable use on the site, the land use decision must be complete 60 days prior to the OTC's final action to select projects.

- A *Transportation System Plan (TSP)* is a plan for one or more transportation facilities planned, developed, operated, and maintained in a coordinated manner to supply continuity of movement among modes, and within and between geographic and jurisdictional areas.
- *Comprehensive Plan* means a generalized, coordinated land use map and policy statement of the governing body of a local government that interrelates all functional and natural systems and activities relating to the use of lands, including but not limited to sewer and water systems, transportation systems, educational facilities, recreational facilities, and natural resources and air and water quality management programs.
- A *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* is a 20-year plan prepared by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that identifies needed transportation projects and funding sources.
- A *zoning amendment* is a formal changing of the land use, which requires approval and adoption by the pertinent local government.
- A *Goal Exception* is a decision to exclude certain land from the requirements of one or more applicable statewide goals. (See our [list of Statewide Planning Goals](#))

Identified in adopted transportation system plan (TSP)	Status <input type="text" value=""/>	Expected completion date <input type="text" value=""/> 
---	--------------------------------------	--

Identified in adopted local comprehensive plan	Status <input type="text" value=""/>	Expected completion date <input type="text" value=""/> 
---	--------------------------------------	--

Identified in adopted regional transportation plan (RTP)	Status <input type="text" value=""/>	Expected completion date <input type="text" value=""/> 
---	--------------------------------------	--

Requires amendment to local zoning to change the use of the property	Status <input type="text" value=""/>	Expected completion date <input type="text" value=""/> 
---	--------------------------------------	--

Goal exception (if required by state planning goals)	Status <input type="text" value=""/>	Expected completion date <input type="text" value=""/> 
---	--------------------------------------	--

Identified in public or corporate planning document

Status

Expected completion date

Any additional planning or land use efforts not specified above

Planing/land use effort	Status	Expected completion date
✘		
+ Add Item		

17. Planning/land use narrative

1,000 character limit. Provide additional information about planning and land use actions needed to complete your project. Describe where the proposed project is consistent with or identified in a public or corporate planning document. Please upload the relevant planning document or attach only those specific pages that reference the project on the last page of this application. Examples: Design Review, Partition, Subdivision, Conditional Use, Zone Change, etc.

18. Project budget

As the Connect Oregon program is intended to support Oregon’s economy, we would generally encourage grant recipients to contract out the work to the private sector. While grant recipients may need to perform some specialized work in-house, please confirm your plans with the Connect Oregon program office following grant award. Private sector recipients should review the sample grant agreement clarifying what is not allowed around “related parties.” No additional Connect Oregon funds will be available; grant recipients who are awarded funds will be responsible for any additional project costs and will be held to completing the scope of work in their funding agreement.

The Connect Oregon program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients will be required to pay its consultants/contractors/vendors prior to seeking reimbursement from the Connect Oregon program.

18a. Budgeted amount: land acquisition

18b. Budgeted amount: permits, other public body approvals (application preparation/fees)

18c. Budgeted amount: design/engineering

18d. Budgeted amount: design/engineering contract administration

18e. Budgeted amount: construction

18f. Budgeted amount: construction contract administration

18g. Budgeted amount: miscellaneous

For any items that don't fit into previous categories

Subtotal

\$0.00

Contingency

Total project cost

\$0.00

19. Who was responsible for determining the project budget and what is their level of expertise?

500 character limit. Identify who determined the budget, their level of expertise (i.e. Engineer, certified construction project manager, etc.), and describe what makes them qualified to determine the schedule.

20. Grant request/matching funds requirement

Enter the grant request; the total project cost will come from question 18 above. The applicant match and match percentage will calculate automatically. An applicant must provide at least 30% of the project’s funding or 50% for Class I railroads.

The amount of matching funds an applicant makes available is used in scoring your application. Should an applicant be chosen for funding, the commitment of matching funds shown in the application may not be reduced through the life of the project.

Total project cost
\$0.00

Grant request

Applicant match (dollars)
\$0.00

Applicant match (percent)

21. Please identify each source of matching funds you will use for the project

Identify each source and amount of matching funds. Matching funds will be verified at least 60 days prior to the OTC’s final action.

To qualify as match, funds must meet specific requirements as follow:

- The source of matching funds must be identified on the completed application.
- Project costs include the actual costs expended that are reasonable, necessary and directly related to the project and are considered capitalized to an asset that is part of the project.
- Project costs that were paid for by the applicant prior to the Agreement’s effective date may be eligible to be used as match but are not eligible for reimbursement.
- The value of an item (e.g. land) may not be considered part of the match. For example, if an applicant has a parcel of land purchased several years ago, the applicant’s original purchase price must be used, not its present value.
- Non-cash donations made on behalf of a project have a zero match value (e.g., land, labor, and equipment donated for a project are not of value for match).
- Oregon state highway funds may not be used as match.

Source *	Amount *
 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

+ Add Item

Economic Benefits

22. How does the project reduce transportation costs for Oregon businesses or improve access to jobs and sources of labor? *

1000 character limit. In the space provided, explain how the project reduces transportation costs or improves access to labor for businesses. Detail any specific businesses, the number of businesses, and how the project will provide cost savings (e.g. time savings, provision of an alternate route, provides access to a new mode).

23. What are the specific economic benefits to this state that will result from this project?

1,250 character limit. Describe the economic benefits to Oregon as a result of this project. This could include businesses staying in Oregon (retain long-term jobs) or locating/expanding in Oregon (add long-term jobs). Identified jobs should be a direct result of the project improvements. Do not include jobs that will be shifted from one location in Oregon to another within the state, indirect or induced job estimates (multiplier effects), or (short-term) construction jobs. This may include:

- The approximate average annual wage of the long-term jobs created by the project.
- Businesses that will be able to stay in Oregon or locate/expand in Oregon as a direct result of the project.
- The amount of private investment that would be made if and only if the project is implemented.
- Letters of commitment detailing the number of long-term (non-construction) jobs or the amount of additional private investment the project would generate. Commitment letters from businesses or organizations must state their intention to operate in Oregon and their intentions regarding job creation and private investment plans over a specified period.

Limit the discussion of economic benefit to the project's impact on the state's ability to attract or retain business or industry.

24. Describe how the project provides a critical link connecting elements of Oregon's transportation system, and how it will measurably improve utilization and efficiency of the transportation system.

500 character limit. Explain and describe the modes of transportation affected and whether a new link was created or an existing link improved.

25. How does the project improve Oregon's transportation system efficiency and/or utilization?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases system capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> Relieves a bottleneck or congestion point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completes one or more gaps in Oregon's transportation system | <input type="checkbox"/> Removes an existing barrier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improves geometrics | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces traffic or use conflicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Implements technology |

26. a) How is success measured for this project (include methodology for calculation)?

500 character limit. Explain how you arrived at your calculation for measuring success and how the investment in your project will improve that measurement. Successful applicants will be required to report on the success of the project following completion of the project and prior to ODOT releasing withheld retainage.

b) What is the existing measurement today?

200 character limit.

c) What is the anticipated measurement when the project is fully operational?

200 character limit.

27. Does the project improve an existing transportation connection or add a new connection to an industrial or employment center?

- Yes No

28. This project improves or creates access to:

- Industrial center
- Employment center
- This project provides access to a site certified as 'Project Ready' by the Oregon Business Development Department.

For more information, refer to the Application Instructions.

29. Does the project improve safety?

Yes No

Explain. Please note the number and type of incidents (fatal accident, injury accident, property-damage accident, crime, or other) within a specified timeframe.

Documentation or explanation of the incident(s) or safety situation(s) that have occurred that this project is addressing or documentation of a high risk or of a safety issue or hazard potentially occurring. (max 400 characters)

30. Does the project serve one or more of Oregon's Statewide Business Clusters? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic & Outdoor Gear and Apparel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aviation | <input type="checkbox"/> Bioscience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breweries | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Industries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Services and Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Vehicles and Sustainable Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Technology and Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Wood Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Building and Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semiconductors and Electronics Components | <input type="checkbox"/> Software |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solar | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism and Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wave Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Wind Energy |

For more information, refer to the Application Instructions.

Provide detail on the Business Clusters served.

500 character limit.

31. Does this project benefit the Oregon economy by generating a net increase in or retention of long-term jobs (beyond short-term construction jobs) and/or increasing private investment in Oregon?

Yes No

32. Is the project located within 10 miles of a site for mining or processing aggregate that is allowed under ORS 215.213 (2)(d) or 215.283 (2)(b) on land that is zoned exclusive farm use? This is not common.

Yes No

33. Additional Considerations

Briefly describe any expected project benefits or impacts in the outcome areas below. The examples and questions listed below are intended to help identify benefits and impacts, but are not meant to be exhaustive. Consider each topic below and describe the expected project benefit and/or other impacts identified, along with considerations and conclusions made regarding how to improve possible benefits and reduce possible impacts. Include benefits or impacts the proposed project may have on related aspects of the [Strategic Action Plan](#) (SAP). As climate and equity are central themes of the SAP, responses to these items are required, even if the impacts are minimal.

a) How does this project impact equity considerations? *

500 character limit. Does the project improve economic and social well-being for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), low-income Oregonians, or others who have been marginalized, if so, how? What research or study has been done to identify equity benefits or impacts, and what were the results? Are benefits and other impacts distributed among local populations? What mitigations does the project include? Are there other creative solutions to be implemented that reduce impacts or improve benefits?

b) How does the project impact climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainability considerations?* *

500 character limit. Is the project anticipated to advance climate goals (e.g. reduce GHG emissions, enhance adaptation and system resilience, and/or improve system sustainability)? Are elements incorporated to help offset greenhouse gas emissions? What scope or design features are included that increase climate resiliency or system sustainability? Has a climate analysis been completed? If so, what are the results? Are benefits and other impacts distributed among local populations? Are there any mitigations included to reduce impacts to communities, including historically marginalized communities? Are there other creative solutions to be implemented that reduce impacts or improve benefits?

34. Maintenance and Operations

What is the source/are the sources of funds for the continued maintenance and operation of the project for the useful life of the project?

What is the status of these funds?

- Secured (available now)
- Budgeted (committed for future)
-

Describe the steps remaining to commit maintenance and operations funding for the useful life of the project?

Note: Applicant is responsible for maintaining and operating the improvement for 20 years following completion of construction.

400 character limit.

Have you had previous Connect Oregon grant awards? *

- Yes
- No

35. Documentation

Department of Revenue Tax Certification *

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Letters of support

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Property Ownership, land lease/control *

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Secretary of State Business ID

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Site Plans, if available

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Planning/Permitting Documents

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Commitment Letters

Upload

 or drag files

here.

Miscellaneous

Upload

 or drag files


here.

36. Authorizations and Signatures

Please read and check all boxes *

- By checking this box, I certify that above-mentioned Applicant Organization supports the proposed project, has the legal authority to pledge matching funds, and has the legal authority to apply for Connect Oregon funds. I further certify that matching funds are available or will be available for the proposed project no later than 60 days prior to the Oregon Transportation Commission’s final action on grant awards, anticipated to be in May or July 2022. I understand that all State of Oregon rules for contracting, auditing, underwriting (where applicable), and payment will apply to this project.
- By checking this box, I certify that all of the content of this application is true to the best of my knowledge and that I have read the Sample Draft Agreement and will sign the Agreement if selected. I understand that non-compliance with the agreement and program may result in a cancelled project and return of grant funds.
- By checking this box, I certify that per Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 731-035-0050(2)(b), as a condition of Connect Oregon program eligibility, applicants must be current on all state and local taxes, fees and assessments where applicable. Inasmuch, as an authorized representative, I declare, that MY ORGANIZATION, is to the best of the undersigned(s) knowledge, current on all Oregon state and local taxes, fees and assessments. As a continuing requirement to remain eligible, I understand that MY ORGANIZATION will remain current on all Oregon state and local taxes, fees and assessments and failure to comply with this rule may result in corrective action up to and including a determination of ineligibility for Connect Oregon funding. I further understand that Connect Oregon funds may be withdrawn should it be determined that this certification was signed falsely or in error, or that MY ORGANIZATION has become delinquent in its state and local tax, fee or assessment obligation.

Signature of authorized representative *



The Connect Oregon program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients will be required to pay its consultants/contractors/vendors prior to seeking reimbursement from the Connect Oregon program.

Statute:

(c)(A) "Transportation project" means a project or undertaking for rail, marine or aviation capital infrastructure, including bridges, or a project that facilitates the transportation of materials, animals or people.

(B) A transportation project does not include costs associated with operating expenses.

(3) In selecting transportation projects, the commission shall consider:

(a) Whether a proposed transportation project reduces transportation costs for Oregon businesses or improves access to jobs and sources of labor;

(b) Whether a proposed transportation project results in an economic benefit to this state;

(c) Whether a proposed transportation project is a critical link connecting elements of Oregon's transportation system that will measurably improve utilization and efficiency of the system;

(d) How much of the cost of a proposed transportation project can be borne by the applicant for the grant from any source other than the Connect Oregon Fund;

(e) Whether a proposed transportation project is ready for construction;

(f) Whether a proposed transportation project has a useful life expectancy that offers maximum benefit to the state; and

(g) Whether a proposed transportation project is located near operations conducted for mining aggregate or processing aggregate as described in ORS 215.213 (Uses permitted in exclusive farm use zones in counties that adopted marginal lands system prior to 1993) (2)(d) or 215.283 (Uses permitted in exclusive farm use zones in nonmarginal lands counties) (2)(b).