

An aerial photograph of a wide river, likely the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon. A large red cargo ship with "BERGEBULK" written on its side is in the foreground. A bridge spans the river in the middle ground. The background shows a city skyline silhouette against a light sky. The foreground is dominated by a dense green forest.

1. Introduction to the Oregon Transportation Plan

1 Introduction

1.1 Welcome to the Oregon Transportation Plan

The purpose of the Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) is to define the long-term transportation policy for the movement of people and goods across the state, including setting the framework for policies and strategies in the present-day to 2050. This is the overarching transportation plan for Oregon, setting a framework to support people biking, walking or rolling, driving, or riding in cars, buses, trains, or planes to their destinations. The OTP also supports the movement of goods by freight on roads, railways, waterways, and by air. It recognizes that the transportation system is grossly underfunded today but also strives to get to a better tomorrow with actions that balance the realities of what can be done with the needs for what should be done.

The first three chapters of the plan are intended to inform the Legislature, stakeholders and the general public at-large about the importance of the plan and the challenges facing the transportation system today and into the future. The remainder of the plan is intended to inform the work of transportation providers in how to plan for, invest in, build, manage and maintain the multimodal system, working together to achieve key goals and shared outcomes. The Plan is adopted by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) who directs the work and decisions of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Other state agencies, regional and local governments, and other transportation providers must be consistent with the plan. All of these entities have a role to play implementing the OTP, and it will only be through collective efforts that the vision laid out in this plan can be achieved. In addition, public and private investments, private sector actions, and choices in how Oregonians and visitors alike travel will play a role in achieving the plans outcomes.

As a plan that looks out further than 25 years, the OTP seeks to be resilient in the face of change. From climate and extreme weather to technology, there are new ways the transportation system must adapt to or embrace change in order to keep Oregon on-track to achieve the OTP vision. Early chapters in this plan explore several resiliency focus areas and inform how policies and strategies are framed. The plan will be updated as needed when new challenges are encountered that require different solutions.

RESILIENCY FOCUS AREAS

- Safety
- Climate and Weather
- State of Good Repair
- Seismic Resiliency
- Widening Social Inequities
- Changing Technologies
- Transportation Revenue Challenge

Overall, Oregon is a diverse state with many differing and competing needs. This plan acknowledges contrasting challenges faced by Oregon travelers while aiming for safe and comfortable movement of people and goods across the state.

Planning for the future of transportation involves making decisions and compromise. The OTP reflects informed choices made in recognition of the tradeoffs needed to achieve this plan's goals. While the OTP does not identify specific transportation projects, it contains policies and strategies to guide the prioritization and balancing of investments and considers sustainable funding options to meet the diverse needs of people using the transportation system.

1.2 Significance of the Oregon Transportation Plan

The OTP is connected to several key aspects of the lives of Oregonians. Access to safe, reliable and convenient transportation also affects access to jobs, education, healthcare, childcare, food, housing, leisure activities and more. Managing and operating Oregon's entire transportation system has major implications for social equity, economic health and the state's ability to bounce back from natural disasters.

The needs across the transportation system are vast, including disconnected sidewalks, potholed streets, deteriorating bridges, congested roads, transit service gaps and more. A fully functioning transportation system must address these issues, but today's funding can support less than one-quarter of those needs. With insufficient resources the OTP becomes more important than ever to help ensure that what little money is available is directed in ways that can best support the movement of people and goods. Unprecedentedly difficult tradeoffs lay in front of Oregonians. The long-term impacts of deferred maintenance are now no longer avoidable, and Oregon is in a current state of disinvestment in its transportation system. What this means in the upcoming years and through-out the OTP's planning horizon is that while there will be some gains and investment in some areas, there will also be nearly impossible trade-off discussions that will have significant impacts to people's lives, communities, and the economy.

KEY TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES

- Increase in Fatalities and Serious Injuries
- Disrepair of Transportation Assets
- Lack of Funding
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Historic Underinvestment in Disadvantaged Communities
- Supply Chain Disruptions
- Growing Urban Congestion
- Incomplete Bike and Pedestrian Network

The update to the OTP comes at a critical time. Oregon has experienced increased climate-related concerns, natural hazards, economic downturns and major disruptions that have affected the way we live, work and travel. Oregon has also seen dramatic leaps in technology, changes in societal values and preferences as well as shifts in demand and the need for seamless mobility.

Overall, the OTP addresses many key transportation challenges facing Oregonians. Transportation has also a significant impact on climate change; today, it is estimated that 35 percent of Oregon’s total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from transportation. Fatalities and serious injuries continue to rise on Oregon roads. Transportation revenue is declining while infrastructure prices are increasing. Economic and demographic shifts have also changed the way people obtain goods and services, which presents significant ramifications to meeting the different needs of the transportation system.

These changes require a new way to plan and manage the transportation system, and the OTP provides the direction to navigate the rapidly changing world of transportation in Oregon.

Transportation shapes the lives of people in Oregon, and this plan guides transportation. Planning for a better transportation future is a complex challenge that requires collaboration, adequate and sustainable funding, compromise and creativity on local and statewide levels. This plan provides the policy to inform the development of investments in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan and programs that support transportation across Oregon. This plan also represents a chance to create a more sustainable and equitable transportation system that gets all Oregonians where they are going safely and efficiently.



1.3 Oregon Transportation Plan Development

The development of the OTP involved many diverse individuals and groups, including local, regional, and state agencies, tribes, ODOT staff, community leaders and organizations, and people with lived experiences.

The Oregon Transportation Commission is the top of the pyramid and directs and adopts OTP policies on behalf of the state of Oregon. The Oregon Transportation Commission ultimately adopts the OTP under Oregon Revised Statute 184.617 (c).

A key advisory group, the OTP Policy Coordinating Committee, comprised of government officials, industry leaders, advocates and Oregon residents from different communities, convened throughout the project to review and advise on the development of OTP goals, policies, strategies, and actions.

Transportation subject matter experts in transportation policy and implementation collaborated on developing and drafting policy by participating in OTP Work Groups with a focus on:



**Social
Equity**



**Climate Change,
Environment and
Resiliency**



Safety



**Modeling
and
Scenarios**



**Mobility and
Accessibility**



**Electrification
and
Technology**



**Economy and
Livability**

