

The Six Pillars.

To achieve the streamlining goals of the Charter, several accessory agreements have been developed or are in development to fully represent the concept of transportation and environmental streamlining. The first was the CETAS vision for streamlining. The Vision, represented in Table 1 of the Charter Agreement, provides a definition of streamlining from which individual activity areas or “pillars” were extracted as the necessary construct to accomplish streamlining. The Six Pillars are described below:

Pillar # 1 - Environmental Management System (EMS). The Oregon Department of Transportation would establish a management structure designed to address the impacts of its activities, products, and services on the environment, providing a consistent disciplined approach by defining: the management system structure: the assignment of resources and responsibilities: and the regular evaluation of environmental performance.

Pillar # 2 – Habitat Mitigation Program. This program initiated by ODOT and in direct partnership with CETAS would create or publicly capture habitat resources. The program would be open to participation by other state, regional and local governments. The proactive purchase or creation of habitat mitigation would be in anticipation of future transportation projects foreseen as jeopardizing the existing natural and cultural environment.

Pillar # 3 – Natural and Cultural Resource Mapping Program. CETAS agencies with administration provided by ODOT would collectively map sensitive natural and cultural resources using geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS). The program would map and record habitat and cultural resources including critical habitat areas and identify the actions needed to sustain and improve them and provide early identification of sensitive areas to ensure they’re avoided whenever possible in the course of transportation project development, construction and maintenance.

Pillar # 4 – Expanded Programmatic Approvals. This Pillar expands current approved programmatic to include other federal agencies. It also would establish new programmatic to improve environmental management practices and put systems in place to monitor their use. The objective of this Pillar is to make the most efficient use of agency staff by directing their attention to the approval of procedures and practices and providing them the opportunity to audit at the project level.

Pillar # 5 – Seamless Performance by Local Governments and Contractors. ODOT would improve its training and the compliance of contractors and/or local governments to ensure the quality of their environmental management practices meets the commitment to CETAS goals and objectives. The objective of this Pillar is to ensure that when local governments and/or contractors are acting as an agent of ODOT, the CETAS agreement is executed fully.

Pillar # 6 – Expanding CETAS Partnerships. To maximize the potential for streamlining, the signatory agencies will examine extending an invitation to federal land managers, such as the USFS and BLM, join in the collaborative process. Likewise, appropriate members of local, regional, state or federal governments may find benefit in participating in some of the CETAS processes and programs.