

Quarterly Newsletter | Third Edition | February 2019



ODOT's Office of Civil Rights' newsletter, *Equity Line*, brings to you the newest content relevant to your business and business needs. Whether you work in transportation-related fields, construction, or just drive Oregon's roads and have an interest in what ODOT is doing for the Oregon economy, OCR's Equity Line is a newsletter you will want to read.

If you want to receive copies of the OCREL at no charge, delivered straight to your inbox, please click the subscribe box below or send an email request to [ocrprograms@odot.state.or.us](mailto:ocrprograms@odot.state.or.us) to make sure you are on the list for future issues.

*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."* – Oprah Winfrey

## ODOT SPONSORED EVENTS



**TAKE YOUR  
BUSINESS  
TO THE  
NEXT LEVEL!**

**BUSINESS  
LEADERSHIP  
RECHARGE**

3-Day Conference | March 7 - 9, 2019

Oregon Garden Resort | Silverton, Oregon

[BDILeadership2019.eventbrite.com](http://BDILeadership2019.eventbrite.com) | Register Today!

**Event:** BDI Business Leadership Recharge

**When:** March 7- March 9, 2019

**Where:** Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton OR

[Learn More](#)



**business expo  
WESTc**

April 4, 2019

REGISTER NOW!

go to » [bizexpowest.com](http://bizexpowest.com)

*What's Your Story?*

**Event:** Business Expo West Trade Show

**When:** April 4, 2019

**Where:** Tektronix, Bldg. 38, Beaverton, OR

[Learn More](#)



**Event:** Governor's Marketplace

**When:** March 20 & March 21, 2019

**Where:** Salem Convention Center

**March 20**

- Afternoon Appetizers
- Half Day Pre-Conference
- In-Depth Educational Sessions

**March 21**

- Continental Breakfast
- Tools To Start, Sustain & Thrive
- Meet The Buyers
- Luncheon
- Resources/Tradeshow

Registrants that sign up for the alert receive a **20% discount** on their admission:

[Sign Up](#)

## ODOT PROJECTS



**I-5 ROSE QUARTER**  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### Environmental Assessment Online Open House

Learn about the project, review key findings from the Environmental Assessment, and provide your input.

**You can provide comments now through April 1, 2019 (5 p.m.).**

[Visit the Online Open House](#)

[Learn more](#)



## ADA Pilot Project in Yamhill

The **Oregon Department of Transportation** started a series of **American Disabilities Act (ADA) pilot projects** with the first pilot beginning last year, the week of August 13 in the **city of Yamhill** and wrapped up by Labor Day.

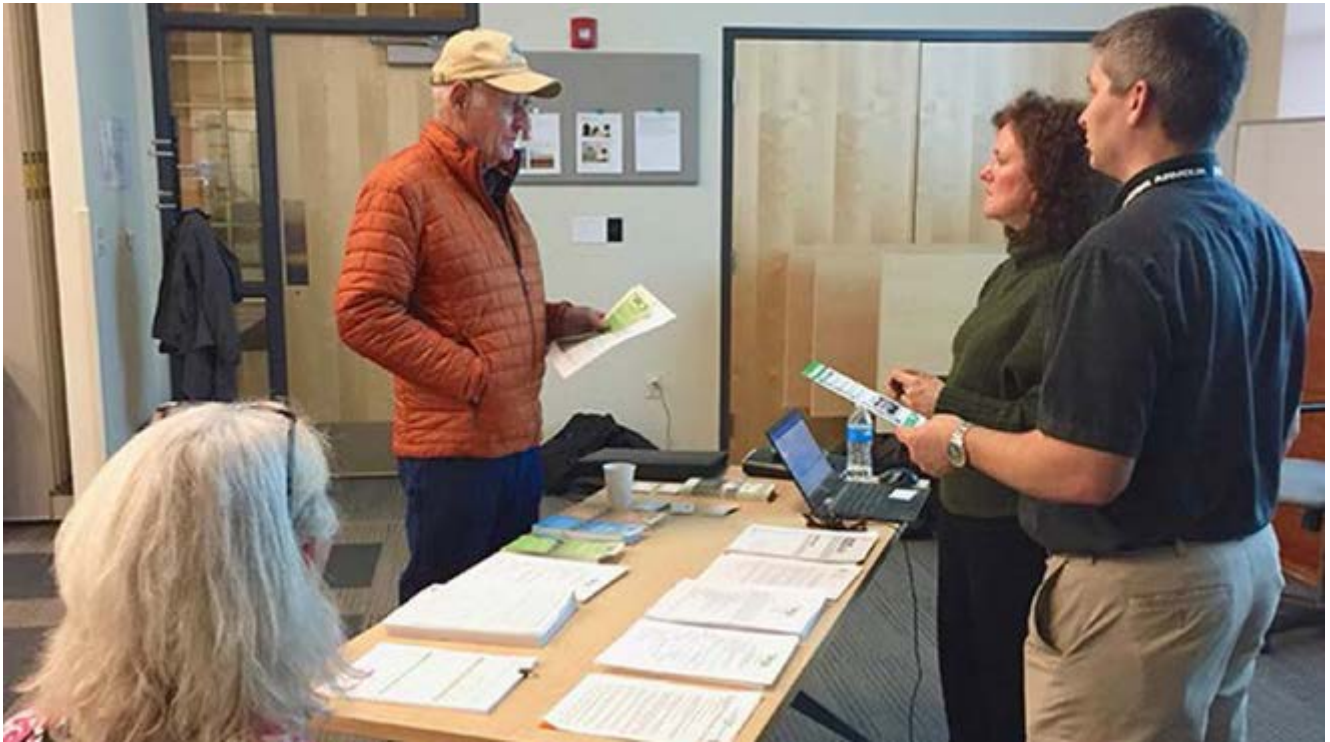
The goal of these pilot projects happening throughout the state is to find an efficient way to bring non-compliant curb ramps up to current federal accessibility guidelines. The projects are the result of a settlement agreement that requires ODOT to address all non-compliant curb ramps on state highways over the next 15 years.

ODOT hopes that by pairing an engineer and a contractor side by side in the field, they will discover an innovative solution to increase compliance and decrease costs by defining the minimum level of design required that will allow the construction of compliant curb ramps.

Designers are prioritizing curb ramps from easiest to most difficult and will begin with the easiest ones. Eventually, all curb ramps within this segment will be addressed within the required 15-year timeframe.

Under the settlement agreement, ODOT is required to bring more than 25,000 curb ramps into compliance in 15 years.

## COBID OUTREACH HOSTED BY ODOT



### **ODOT Region 4 Hosts a COBID Outreach Event**

Last December, ODOT Region 4 held a successful Emerging Small Business Registration Event where the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) was featured.

The event was an opportunity for small businesses to get their foot in the door as an ODOT partner; working to provide a safe and reliable multi-modal transportation system that connects people and helps Oregon communities and economies thrive.

**Stay tuned for the next outreach event and an opportunity to sign up as an ESB contractor!**

## SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



### CONCRETE SOLUTIONS INC.

**Company:** Concrete Solutions Incorporated

**Owner:** Christopher Szedlak

**Industry/Specialty:** General Contractor:  
concrete sidewalks, curbs, storm basins, and  
foundations

**Phone:** 503-437-2233

**Email:** [c.szedlak@comcast.net](mailto:c.szedlak@comcast.net)

**Certifications:** Oregon ESB

## For Concrete Solutions, Inc. It's All About Relationships

**Christopher Szedlak of Concrete Solutions, Inc.** got his start in concrete construction by working for a concrete construction business in McMinnville during the summers while he was in college back in 1989. That very same construction business is the one he now owns and operates. The journey from working summers to owning the business had everything to do with careful planning and the relationships Chris built along the way.

Today Concrete Solutions has between 6 and 15 employees, depending on the season, and specializes in slip form paving of curbs, curb storm basins, and ADA accessible ramps. He and his team just wrapped up the **ODOT ADA pilot project in Yamhill**. This was an exciting project for his team because they got to work on creating innovative solutions that will result in cost reduction when removing and replacing curb ramps that need to be ADA compliant.

### Planning is Everything

After finishing college and completing an MBA at Willamette, Chris contemplated a career in finance but realized he wouldn't be happy sitting at a desk all day. He thought about all those summers working on concrete construction and put together a plan to buy out his boss, who was getting close to retiring. *"Three years before I bought the firm I knew what the plan was so I had time to think it through. I lived with my parents during that time to save money,"* Chris laughs. He set up a five-year payment plan and bought the company in 1997. Without careful planning, none of this would have been possible.

Chris recalls that, *"It's overwhelming when you're first starting. Going from 0 to 60 with multiple employees right off the bat is a challenge. You have to get over the mindset of writing tens of thousands of dollars of checks for concrete each month."* His advice for firms just starting out is to go slow and steady and focus on building capacity over time. Successful planning involves the big picture side of the business such as managing employees and buying equipment, as well as supervising things on the job site such as getting workers scheduled and traffic control. Chris makes sure to visit a job site before the project starts so that he can see where there might be challenges and prepare for them ahead of time. "I don't like doing anything twice," he says. He prioritizes meeting with the general contractor and the inspectors ahead of time to build a good relationship and brainstorm ways to get things done the right way and within the timeline.

## Doing Good Work Earns Respect

When remembering how he was able to make his business grow in the early days, Chris brought up the relationships he was able to create as a result of his team doing good work. In his experience you earn respect when you show up on time, when you're accurate, when you follow through on what you say, and find ways to work with everyone on the job site. *"When my team shows up and we help out, that earns the respect of all the crews and that means people are more willing to help you out on your side,"* says Chris. More than anything else, the relationships with other business owners, general contractors, and inspectors has resulted in securing more work. Specifically, working with and understanding the needs of the inspectors for each project has been a good strategy for him in his business. He shared, *"Especially with the ADA stuff, people can have different perspectives because the law is vague. I work hard to try and figure everything out and dial it in. It's pages and pages of documents. And now I get a lot of calls from city inspectors asking me questions. That level of trust is huge."*

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



## Opportunities for Business Development

If you are a certified DBE or ESB business owner, read on! Are you interested in taking classes related to Accessing Capital or learning other small business practices to develop your business? ODOT will provide a **\$500 voucher toward tuition for any eligible DBE or ESB firm** who attends these type of courses and works with our partners in the Small Business Development Centers across the state. You can also earn

CCB continuing education credits. Please email [ocrprograms@odot.state.or.us](mailto:ocrprograms@odot.state.or.us) to learn about the options available to you.

**February - December**

[Central Oregon CC](#), 1027 NW Trenton Avenue Bend, OR 97701

\$999

**September - May**

[Chemeketa CC](#), 626 High Street NE Salem OR, 97301

\$800

**October - June**

[Clackamas CC](#), Harmony Campus, 7738 SE Harmony Road, Ste 287, Milwaukie, OR 97222

\$695

**September - June**

[Clatsop CC](#), 1651 Lexington Avenue, Astoria, OR 97103

\$695

[Columbia Gorge CC](#), 400 E Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058

\$595

**October - June**

[Klamath CC](#), 803 Main Street, Suite 204, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

\$795

**September - June**

[Lane CC](#), 101 W 10th Ave, Suite 304, Eugene, OR 97401

\$579

**September - June**

[Linn-Benton CC](#), 257 SW Madison Ave, Suite 210 Corvallis, OR 97333

\$795

**January - October**

[Linn-Benton CC](#), 44 Industrial Way, Lebanon, OR 97355

\$795

**September - May**

[Oregon Coast](#), 13788 SE High School Drive, Lincoln City, OR 97367

\$900

**October - June**

[Rogue CC](#), 214 SW Fourth Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

\$599

**October - June**

[Umpqua, Umpqua Business Center](#), 522 SE Washington Avenue, Roseburg, OR 97470

\$595

[Explore More](#)

## BID OPPORTUNITIES



## ODOT's open bidding opportunities are listed through ORPIN or EBids.

To get registered to bid through ORPIN, go to <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/> from the main page, click on Supplier Registration and follow the prompts.

Once you are registered, you can browse by Organization to pull up all of ODOT's listings. Check back every few days for new opportunities to bid on. It's that easy!

[Start with EBids \(PDF\)](#)

## Current Bids on ORPIN

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**BID:** 730-33728-19 **Closing Date:** 03/01/2019 2:00 PM  
**Title:** 82nd Ave Various Locations Pavement Repair

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**BID:** 730-33708-19 **Closing Date:** 03/05/2019 10:00 AM  
**Title:** Janitorial Services-District 11-Klamath Falls

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**BID:** 730-33573-19 **Closing Date:** 03/05/2019 2:00 PM  
**Title:** Design Svcs for US26 (Powell Blvd):SE 99th Ave-East City Limits

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**BID:** 730-33714-19 **Closing Date:** 03/06/2019 2:00 PM  
**Title:** ESB Mehama Equipment Storage Building Exterior Prep and Painting

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**BID:** 730-33698-19 **Closing Date:** 03/07/2019 10:00 AM  
**Title:** Janitorial Services-Enterprise DMV

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**BID:** 730-00074-13 **Closing Date:** 03/31/2020 5:00 PM  
**Title:** RFQ for ODOT's Right-of-Way Appraisal Service

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**BID:** 730-B34817-17 **Closing Date:** 12/31/2022 11:59 PM  
**Title:** Trip Permit Agent Agreement



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**BID:** 730-25905ONGOING-14 **Closing Date:** 012/31/2023 5:00 PM  
**Title:** Hot Mixed ASphalt Concrete and Tack Coats

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**BID:** 730-SCP091A-15 **Closing Date:** 04/11/2025 4:00 PM  
**Title:** Request for Qualified Firms: ODOT Small Contracting Program

## OCR PROGRAMS

### Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

In order to be part of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, your firm must be certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises include small businesses that are at least 51% owned by Minorities (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, and Women) Other individuals on a case-by-case basis.

[Learn More](#)

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### Emerging Small Business (ESB)

The Emerging Small Business Program creates contract opportunities for Oregon's small businesses. The program also helps remove some of the barriers which prevent small businesses from contracting with ODOT. The ESB program objectives are to:

- Ensure ODOT is following Oregon laws and requirements.
- Assist and encourage other state and local agencies to have Emerging Small Business programs.
- Ensure that opportunities are available statewide to a diverse pool of businesses.
- Ensure that Emerging Small Businesses can compete fairly for ODOT funded projects.
- Ensure that only eligible firms can participate in the Emerging Small Business program.
- Help develop firms so that they can compete outside of the Emerging Small Business program.

[Learn More](#)

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### Title VI

ODOT complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other federal nondiscrimination statutes which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, disability or gender in ODOT's programs, activities, services, operations, delivery of benefits or opportunities to participate.

In an effort to provide equitable access, ODOT provides accessibility aids, translation and interpretation services for all public events and vital documents free of charge upon request. You can get these services by providing reasonable advanced notice.

[Request a Program List](#)

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## Intermodal Civil Rights

The Intermodal Civil Rights Program makes sure that public transportation and passenger rail programs comply with civil rights laws and executive orders that prevent discrimination in programs that receive federal money. The Intermodal Civil Rights Program works with other programs in the Office of Civil Rights to keep ODOT following civil rights laws and policies. Learn about our program objectives.

[Learn More](#)

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## Equal Employment Opportunity Contractor Compliance

The Oregon Department of Transportation is committed to equal opportunity in hiring and awarding contracts. ODOT promotes equal opportunity within its own workforce and with the workforce of contracted employers who provide services for the agency.

[Find Out More](#)

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## Workforce Development

ODOT is training future highway workers that will fill vacancies in the construction industry. By partnering with local nonprofits and Pre-Apprenticeship Programs, we're poised to meet today current demands. Get a list of programs ready to work with you.

[Get the List](#)

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**STAY  
CONNECTED**

## OCR's Equity Line E-Newsletter

[Sign Up](#)

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**ODOT Mission Statement** | We provide a safe and reliable multimodal transportation system that connects people and helps Oregon's communities and economy thrive.

ODOT is an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. The content in this email is available by alternate means. Please contact our office at (503) 986-4350, or call statewide relay at 711 or via email at [OCRINFOREQUEST@odot.state.or.us](mailto:OCRINFOREQUEST@odot.state.or.us) for assistance.



**Oregon Department of Transportation**  
Office of Civil Rights - MS 23  
3930 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302  
Phone: 503-986-4350  
[OCRINFOREQUEST@odot.state.or.us](mailto:OCRINFOREQUEST@odot.state.or.us)  
[www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Business/OCR](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Business/OCR)

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