



Oregon Highway Plan

Why Update the OHP?

The Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) contains policy, performance measures, and definitions and classifications for the highway system. It is a guide for decisions of cities, counties, planners, and engineers statewide. It tells the public how investments in the system will be identified and prioritized. The new OHP will update and replace the current one that is very out of date. It's had amendments but not a full update since its adoption in 1999. The new OHP will help implement the 2023 Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) and its focus on transportation system users, climate, safety, and equity.

The OHP is not just about highways, rather it's about all that happens on roadways and how the modes interact and serve the state. The OHP will describe what Oregonians need and want from the roadway system. It is important because it will help ODOT and the state's regional and local transportation agencies determine what investments to prioritize for different facilities and locations. That will help make sure that, over time, the roadways will better meet the needs of residents and better serve the state as a whole.



Facts.

Oregon has:

- About 8,000 state highway miles, and 80,000 total miles.
- Over 8,000 bridges, with about 2,700 on highways.
- More than 1,800 railroad crossings statewide.
- More than 80 transit service providers.

Impacts.

- The OHP will help determine priorities and inform decisions for all transportation agencies.
- It will have technical components that guide engineering and planning decisions.
- It will help shape roadway characteristics in every community.

Key Elements.

- Policy section with goals and strategies to address the full roadway system.
- System section to define and describe the state highway system.
- Investment and implementation section to clarify options, tradeoffs, and next steps.

What will the OHP Address?

Making sure the OHP serves the whole state well means working together on a variety of hard questions. Advice and participation throughout will be important to get to the plan needed. Here are just a few questions:



- How can we implement new performance measures to reflect needs and expectations of multiple modes?
- Should roadway classifications and designations be updated to reflect expectations? If so, how?
- What kinds of investments should be prioritized where, and how should different kinds of places and needs be identified?
- How can the OHP best implement the OTP's focus on climate, safety, and equity?
- How can the OHP be set up to support thriving communities and the state economy too?



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Plan Development Process

Development of the OHP is beginning in 2024. ODOT is starting by gathering some starting information from internal and external groups and completing initial tasks such as determining what should be kept from the old OHP with updates and developing a detailed project scope, schedule, and public involvement plan. The schedule described here is a preliminary overview of the anticipated plan development project.

Most OHP development activities are expected to be in 2025 and 2026 when ODOT will work with project advisory committees and conduct public outreach. These efforts will help answer questions like those above and help draft OHP contents.

Plan development is expected to conclude in 2027 with completion of a draft plan, public feedback on the draft, revisions, adoption, and publishing of the completed plan. Since there are many questions and priorities to address, it is expected that there will be a series of tasks to do after the plan is completed. These will start implementation of the OHP and work on further questions identified or not fully addressed during plan development.

Oregon Highway Plan Update Preliminary Project Schedule



Outreach and Public Involvement



ODOT will work with many others to develop the OHP. It is both a broad policy document that will help inform the public and other plans and decisions throughout the state, and a specific reference for engineers and planners working on transportation projects. There will be both focused opportunities to provide input on topics like the questions above, and broad conversations to make sure the new plan will meet a variety of needs. There will be a policy advisory committee to guide plan development and help integrate work group ideas and public feedback into OHP contents.

Public involvement for the OHP is beginning with some interviews, discussions with certain existing groups, and launch of the project website. See the link below for the website where you can find more information and sign up for email updates to come later when the project is more fully underway.