



A shuttle bus connecting coastal communities in Tillamook County. Photo: ODOT

## Oregon Transit and Housing Study

*Evaluating policies and actions that lead to viable connections between housing and transit*

### Why this Study, Why Now?

The Oregon State Legislature has asked ODOT to study policies and actions that could improve households' quality of life through increasing housing opportunities with easy connections to transit. Transportation and housing are interrelated factors that can influence households' quality of life. In addition to comprising the two largest household budget expense items, housing and transportation choices are connected and can affect a household's physical environment, health outcomes, economic mobility, educational and cultural opportunities and numerous other factors that influence quality of life.

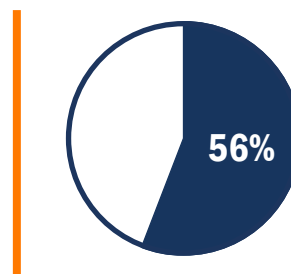
This study will engage housing agencies, developers, transit providers, local and tribal governments across Oregon to identify policies and actions that improve access to attainable housing and convenient, reliable transit.



A Gilliam County Transportation bus stopped in Condon. Photo: ODOT

### Who is this Study for?

This study will primarily benefit local government housing and planning, tribal governments and transit partners. It will help address the growing challenges related to housing, including affordable housing, and public transportation that many Oregon communities face. This study will provide a foundation and understanding of how housing and public transportation are linked and affect households' quality of life. The goal is to identify actionable strategies that can address unique circumstances throughout Oregon.



*Oregon households spend a combined 56% of their income on housing and transportation expenses according to the H+T Index.*  
*([www.htaindex.cnt.org](http://www.htaindex.cnt.org))*

The study will explore new tools for addressing growing transportation challenges while simultaneously tackling housing affordability. This information will help many stakeholders, from developers and affordable housing agencies to advocacy groups, to find cooperative solutions to meet local needs.

## Some of the Questions this Study Will Answer

- What innovative policies or actions can housing agencies, developers, transit providers and local and tribal governments bring about?
- What are the limitations to what these groups can do?
- How does safe, convenient access to transit, such as complete sidewalks, protected pedestrian crossings or bicycle routes, make a difference in the housing choices people make?
- What economic development opportunities do transit stations provide?
- How can existing housing, tenancy and affordability be preserved when transit investments are made? How can agencies ward off gentrification?
- How do metropolitan areas and smaller communities differ in their opportunities and issues?
- How does housing, the use of transit and access between the two differ for seniors, low-income communities, racial minorities and other communities of concern?



A new development at the urban fringe with a half-mile walk to the nearest transit stop.  
Photo: Google Earth

### Key Outcomes

- Provide a broad audience with policy measures and actions that can be taken to better connect transit and housing to reduce household costs for Oregonians across the state.
- Provide a collection of case studies focused on best practices and state and local policy reviews.
- Identify opportunities for local communities to better integrate transit service into existing and future housing.

### How to Get in Touch

You can learn more and send your input to ODOT via:

**Web:** [www.oregon.gov/odot/Planning/Pages/Transit-and-Housing-Study.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/Planning/Pages/Transit-and-Housing-Study.aspx)

**Email:** [Lucia.L.Ramirez@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Lucia.L.Ramirez@odot.state.or.us)

**Phone:** 503-986-4168

### Timeline

The study is expected to span 18 months. The project will host an online survey and a virtual open house to provide information and collect public input.

★ Key Stakeholder Input Opportunities

