

Equity Guiding Principles

Every Mile Counts



Statewide Transportation Strategy: A 2050 Vision for Greenhouse Gas Reduction



Multi-Agency Implementation Work Plan (June 2020 - June 2022)

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

As part of implementing the Statewide Transportation Strategy, the Every Mile Counts partner-agencies (ODOT, DEQ, DLCDD and ODOE) are committed to advancing equitable outcomes for communities in Oregon. To ensure this commitment is realized, the partner-agencies have developed Equity Guiding Principles using feedback gathered from the Every Mile Counts Equity Engagement Workshops, responses to surveys, and comment letters received. These guiding principles establish decision-making criteria for agencies to consider throughout implementation of Every Mile Counts actions to ensure meaningful progress is made toward achieving Oregon’s greenhouse gas reduction goals while also advancing social equity and environmental justice objectives.

As a basis for these guiding principles, Every Mile Counts partner-agencies have grounded their definition of “equity” in the definition presented by Governor Kate Brown in the State of Oregon Equity Framework:

“Equity acknowledges that not all people, or all communities, are starting from the same place due to historic and current systems of oppression. Equity is the effort to provide different levels of support based on an individual’s or group’s needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Equity actionably empowers communities most impacted by systemic oppression and requires the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to those communities.”

Equity Guiding Principles

1. Stakeholder engagement approach is intentional, centering community voice, designed to educate and empower community members to participate fully.

- 1.1 Engagement strategies lead with the voices of historically and currently marginalized or underserved communities – specifically, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, LGBTQIA+, low-income/low-wealth, older adults, youth, people with disabilities, houseless, rural, coastal, and people without access to the internet.
- 1.2 Community engagement is highly-valued as an important and necessary resource, and is compensated and accommodated for accordingly.
- 1.3 Opportunities to meaningfully engage in shaping Every Mile Counts actions and decisions are made accessible through early communication, proactive coordination, and building flexibility into the public process.

2. Communities most impacted by Every Mile Counts actions are identified and engaged to ensure their voices, needs and recommendations are reflected in related policy- and decision-making.

- 2.1 Research, information, and data-gathering efforts are informed by affected communities, including the insights and lived experience perspectives of community members.
- 2.2 Best practice strategies in equitable community engagement are adopted that make it easier for people to provide meaningful input to shape decisions and ensure unique community concerns and impacts are captured.
- 2.3 Decisions and solutions are community-informed and community-driven.

3. Equitable outcomes drive Every Mile Counts decisions and investment priorities.

- 3.1 Investments in infrastructure and programs where impacts of climate changes are anticipated are prioritized, particularly in frontline communities where increased climate impacts are also indicated.
- 3.2 Projects benefiting historically and currently marginalized or underserved communities are prioritized.
- 3.3 Actions or decisions with the potential to cause harm are avoided; if such actions cannot be avoided, all efforts are made to mitigate negative impacts.

4. Progress, impacts, and outcomes are tracked, well-documented, and accessible – providing transparency and accountability, and building trust.

- 4.1 Agencies will develop metrics to ensure actions promote equitable outcomes for historically and currently marginalized or underserved communities, including those on the frontlines of air pollution and climate change.
- 4.2 Actions and implementation efforts are evaluated for potential unintended negative consequences to ensure projects do not perpetuate or increase disproportionate polluting impacts, displacement, or other historic and institutional disparities based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and/or socioeconomic status.
- 4.3 Ongoing monitoring, with traditional and non-traditional indicators, is used to gauge effectiveness and to prevent or mitigate unintended consequences.

5. Planning, rulemaking, and implementation efforts seek to maximize flexibility to allow for quick, responsive action, and to encourage the early adoption of best practices to reduce the impacts of climate change.

- 5.1 Needs and costs are matched to available agency resources to ensure adequate allocation of agency time, funding, and staff are dedicated to addressing equity during the Every Mile Counts work and beyond.
- 5.2 When considering state activities to support reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, opportunities that also increase historically and currently marginalized or underserved communities resilience and adaptation to climate change are identified and prioritized.
- 5.3 Agencies are encouraged to provide guidance and flexible direction in implementing short-term solutions while also undertaking legal obligations to adopt formal rules and regulations.