

CAPITALIZING ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program allocates \$1.3 billion to repair or replace hundreds of aging highway bridges. ODOT is seeking opportunities to leverage these funds.

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds will repair or replace hundreds of bridges, pave and maintain city and county roads, improve and expand interchanges, add new capacity to Oregon's highway system, and remove freight bottlenecks statewide. About 17 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the OTIA program, construction projects will sustain about 5,000 family-wage jobs.

Funding bridge repairs and more

- OTIA III, the 2003 Oregon Transportation Investment Act, uses revenues from increased motor vehicle and trucking fees to finance \$2.46 billion in transportation projects. It builds on OTIA I and II, which provide a combined \$500 million for projects throughout the state.
- The bridge program allocates \$1.3 billion to repair or replace hundreds of aging highway bridges, and an additional \$1.16 billion to maintain and modernize local and state roads. Here is the breakdown:
 - › \$1.3 billion in bonds to repair or replace aging state highway bridges
 - › \$300 million in bonds to repair or replace aging local bridges
 - › \$361 million for county and city highway maintenance
 - › \$500 million for highway modernization work statewide

Stretching the budget

- Grouping, or “bundling,” the bridge projects along travel corridors maximizes the bridge program’s budget by achieving economies of scale for design and construction contractors.
- A key ODOT goal is to leverage bridge program funds to do more work without spending more state Highway Fund dollars. For example, the bridge program secured \$1.8 million in federal allocations over two years to fund implementation of the Workforce Development Plan, and obtained a grant through the Lane County Regional Air Pollution Authority to provide subsidies for clean-burning fuel.
- ODOT has asked Congress to help fund some of the bridge repair and replacement work. Most of the aging bridges are on Interstates 5 and 84, which are key federal highways.

