

Get to know the Oregon Department of Transportation

Transportation connects all of us to services, jobs, markets, and each other. Whether you walk, bike, roll, drive, or take transit in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Transportation plays an important role in getting you where you need to be.

ODOT's mission is to serve Oregonians by providing a **safe, accessible, and reliable** multimodal transportation system that connects people and helps Oregon's communities and economy thrive.

Our Customers



Drivers

ODOT builds, maintains, and operates about 8,000 miles of state highways and 2,770 bridges.

ODOT provides incident response support alongside first responders.



People walking, biking, and rolling

ODOT works to provide a bicycling and pedestrian network that reliably and safely connects people to destinations.

This includes making safety improvements to roadways, funding improvements to the local network, and making targeted investments near schools that increase access to walking, biking, rolling, and transit.



Public transportation riders and providers

ODOT funds public transportation operations and improvements across Oregon.

The agency provides direct funding, training, and technical assistance to communities and local transportation providers who offer public transportation.

ODOT also operates the Amtrak Cascades passenger rail service and the Oregon POINT intercity bus network.



Commercial drivers

ODOT keeps Oregon's roads, bridges, and drivers safe by regulating commercial vehicles and drivers at six ports of entry and 88 weigh stations.

ODOT provides direct customer service to commercial drivers through a 24/7 online system, multiple call centers and two customer service counters.



Rail traffic

Through inspection and regulation, safety improvements, and direct funding, ODOT works to ensure a safe and efficient rail transportation system for both passengers and freight.



Oregonians

DMV, a part of ODOT, provides essential customer service for more than 2 million Oregonians each year—including those who don't own or operate a motor vehicle.

ODOT collects tax revenue to keep Oregon's transportation system safe, accessible, and reliable. Local governments and many transportation service providers rely on state funding to operate and maintain their systems.

Did you know?



1. **Oregon was the first state in the country to pass a statewide gas tax (1919)**, and every state has followed our lead since. This revenue contributes to the State Highway Fund, which provides funding for state, city, and county transportation.



2. **ODOT administers the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund**, the only dedicated state funding source for public transit. This funding has helped transit agencies across the state acquire new transit vehicles, supports students with free or reduced fares, improves transit for low-income households, seniors, and people with disabilities, and much more.



3. **ODOT works with local transportation agencies and communities to improve safety for travelers on every public road – not just on state highways.** The agency, through programs like Safe Routes to School and All Roads Transportation Safety, invests millions of dollars every year in improving safety in our communities. Since 2016, ODOT has invested more than \$550 million in improving safety through programs like these.



4. **ODOT funds the installation of electric vehicle chargers across the state** to ensure people can reliably charge their electric vehicles. There are now more than 100,000 registered electric vehicles in Oregon. Increasing adoption of electric vehicles is a central reason why Oregon is on track to reduce carbon emissions from transportation by nearly 60% below 1990 levels by 2050.



5. **ODOT employees work out of 253 communities across Oregon in all 36 counties**, serving our local communities and delivering essential day-to-day services to keep the roads open and safe.

Funding our transportation system

ODOT is facing a structural funding challenge due to flattening and declining gas tax revenue, high inflation and legal restrictions on funding that pays for maintenance and operations last. The agency currently faces a shortfall to deliver core, critical services for Oregonians—like plowing snow, clearing landslides, repairing bridges, providing emergency response and much more. With an additional \$1.8 billion annual investment, ODOT can deliver a safe, accessible, and reliable transportation system.

The good news is that there are lots of different ways to fund a safe, accessible and reliable transportation system. One option would be to raise the gas tax. Another would be to expand the state's existing pay-per-mile program. The state could also raise revenue

through registration or other vehicle fees. Or it could fill the gap with general fund resources.

And lastly, indexing these fees to inflation would make sure the system stays funded long into the future.

With tough choices ahead, Oregonians will need to decide how much they want to maintain their transportation system and how best to pay for it.

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