

PTAC 2023-2024 Goals and Objectives

PTAC is an advisory body to ODOT Public Transit Division. Its role is providing input and advice on policy and funding areas that impact public transportation users and programs throughout the state. Public transportation includes multiple modes and types of service and not just buses.

As an advisory body to ODOT, the PTAC also has the responsibility of reviewing and making recommendations on federal and state funding distributions for individual projects and agency distributions.

Committee Health

- Make sure members understand emerging technologies and trends to possibly provide public transit service differently than in the past. The PTAC needs to assess possible benefits/costs with providing services differently and effective implementation at the local level.
- Develop better and more clear agendas with decisions distinctly defined and outlined so the public, as well as all PTAC members, understands the intent of each agenda item and the desired outcome or action.
- Clearly define the tradeoffs between decisions regarding funding decisions, or lack of, and what those tradeoffs could look like in the local communities.
- Work with ODOT staff to hold a workshop or meeting discussions, such as on intercity programs, where services are marginal or lacking and what possibly can be done to encourage the best connections that funding will allow statewide.
- Facilitate engagement and information sharing among all members through member presentation and breakout groups. Utilize breakout groups to refine discussions to bring back to the larger group.

Work Tasks:

1. Create Technical Work Group to assess and bring items of interest forward to the larger PTAC group
2. Create planning calendar of all events to be worked on for the year
 - a. Acts as blueprint of upcoming agenda discussion
 - b. Regular updates of goals and objectives as progress measurement
3. Early involvement of committee for upcoming ODOT information and discussion items
 - a.
4. Develop program for ongoing support for new and existing members to familiarize them with PTAC's purpose and structure, goals and governance process

STIF Education and Support

- Partner with ODOT to continue to assist transit providers across Oregon with the support they need to successfully deliver on their individual STIF Plans. Whether that is financial management, planning or record keeping systems. PTAC members and their agencies can contribute a wealth of experience, advice, best practices, templates and tools for sharing with other fund recipients to provide better overall management and improvements in public transportation funding outcomes.
- STIF can only be used for Public Transportation Services, as defined by the STIF rules.
 - [Oregon Secretary of State Administrative Rules](#).
 - (27) “Public Transportation Services” means any form of passenger transportation by car, bus, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which provides service to the general public (not including charter, sightseeing, or exclusive school bus service) on a regular and continuing basis. Such transportation may include services designed to meet the needs of a specific user group, including for older adults and individuals with disabilities, for purposes such as health care, shopping, education, employment, public services, personal business, or recreation. Public Transportation Services must be designed and advertised as Shared-Ride Service.

Work Tasks:

1. Inform and educate what are eligible projects for formula and discretionary funds
2. Encourage sustainability in project applications and project sunset timelines
 - a. All projects - planning, pilot operations and technology innovative initiatives

Understanding public transportation (how it works – fixed route, what is paratransit, what is demand response how they interact with each other and the different service provision models)

- Prep for 2025 statewide transportation bill through member involvement and continued support. Community engagement by PTAC members and their agencies will help inform any proposed transportation funding package, provide support for unmet needs and build an active and educated constituency of public transportation users.
 - Support OTA’s work – not advocate
 - Legislative committee to be involved in roadshow
 - How can we assist in the efforts
 - Clarity on what we as PTAC can do; what we as agencies/individuals can do
 - How can we interact with OTA (individuals/committee members)
 - Encourage sharing of content to OTA Website
 - Success story for every district; need to complete; some providers/QEs don’t have those success stories well articulated. PTAC support that work? Providing support for smaller Districts?
- Convene discussions among PTAC members and with ODOT staff about the variety of public transportation options beyond regular fixed route/paratransit service and determine how these modes fit within Oregon’s public transportation funding framework.

- PTAC members can advise ODOT and OTA on transit needs that are still unaddressed after the existing STIF funding. How did transit agencies use and utilize STIF funding and what pressing needs are still being unmet?
- Work with ODOT staff on suggestions and ideas for statewide agency tools to lower capital purchasing costs, make purchases more efficiently and stay abreast of emerging technologies. Use procurement processes, statewide, to efficiently utilize available funding resources through bulk purchases, collaborative purchases and take advantage of economies of scale.
- Establish the clear difference between fund sources and lack of interchangeability between capital funds and operating funds. Identify what levels of each type (operating/capital) are needed statewide and strike a balance between capital needs and ongoing operational requirements. Incorporate this information into additional support for 2025 transportation bill by providing information to ODOT, the Oregon Transportation Commission, state legislators and other partners like the Oregon Transit Association.

Work Tasks:

1. Ongoing assessment of what unaddressed needs are still exist with todays funding
 - a. Categorize unaddressed needs by funding type – capital/operational
2. Prioritization of unaddressed needs and establish timelines for reassessments
3. Develop and implement an orientation program for new members to familiarize them with the committee’s purpose and structure, goals and governance process.

Title VI and accessibility work

- Encourage early involvement with the ODOT Intermodal Civil Rights Manager for future planning to help shape all federal Title VI, ADA, DBE and similar work requirements by ODOT. Help other transit providers throughout Oregon incorporate that same work into their planning processes at the local level. And also importantly, help PTAC members understand how they can be effective in these areas within their own communities.
- Federal/State/local plans – educate, clarity, establish PTAC role
- Encourage ongoing discussion and assessment of the cost or impact of going beyond federal and state requirements and what are the benefits or tradeoffs in doing so.
- Partner with ODOT staff to infuse equity analyses and principles into discretionary project planning and solicitation. Provide suggestions to ODOT staff on how to measure accessibility outcomes.

Work Tasks:

1. Create educational framework for federal planning requirements
2. Establish baseline for basic compliance with federal and state requirements
 - a. Establish benchmarks and tradeoffs for compliance beyond minimal level
3. Develop framework for equity analyses and principles into discretionary project selection
4. Stridently advocate for equitable transportation for all Oregonians