

Work Plan for the Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation

Dates Covered: 2023-2025

Introduction – Purpose

Area Commissions on Transportation offer venues to discuss regional transportation issues and provide input to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to inform their decisions. Per the OTC [Policy on Formation and Operation of ACTs](#), each ACT is expected to prepare a two-year Work Plan that identifies their areas of interest and priorities. Doing so is intended to help focus the work of each ACT and clarify how the group will engage and inform regional and statewide issues. The Work Plan is pre-populated with statewide items that the OTC and ODOT have identified will benefit from ACT engagement. Within this Work Plan the ACT identifies the topics to be covered over the next two years, recognizing the need for flexibility to address emerging issues. Any identified topic should have a transportation nexus and be tailored to the ACTs ability to contribute or influence.

R1ACT Chair Roy Rogers

R1ACT Vice Chair Paul Savas

Interest Areas and Priorities

The below section lists the priorities, concerns and areas of interest unique to the R1ACT in order to help ensure that relevant topics are scheduled for discussion. Each item below identifies desired outcomes and explains how the R1ACT can support those outcomes. The ACT is an advisory group that provides feedback and recommendations, including with the networks that members represent.

Funding and investment priorities

The R1ACT will work to gain a better understanding of existing transportation funding to inform a discussion on revenue options. The ACT members will share this information with those they represent and can use the ACT discussion and discussions with those they represent to inform their engagement as the State Legislature meets to discuss a potential funding package.

The R1ACT is also interested in a dialogue about which types of transportation investments the ACT wants to prioritize and how to fund them. Investment priorities could include ongoing operations and maintenance, capacity to support planned development, resiliency, improving safety for all modes, replacement of aging infrastructure, and improving the efficiency and performance of the existing system. The R1ACT is also interested in identifying specific transportation needs for rural areas and small towns, urban areas and suburban areas, and freight districts. The R1ACT and its members can promote

investments in these priorities through a 2025 legislative transportation package, federal grants, and/or through recommendations to the OTC for future allocations of STIP funding.

Region scale transportation vision

The Metro MPO boundary overlaps with much of the urbanized portions of Region 1, but does not incorporate rural areas. Metro's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is focused on the future of transportation investments within the urbanized Portland area. The R1ACT is interested in supplementing Metro's RTP and 2040 Growth Concept with a broader discussion of the land use and transportation vision for surrounding areas, taking the updated Oregon Transportation Plan into consideration. This discussion can highlight policy direction and investment needs in the regional and statewide system for more rural areas, which could then be reflected in state facility plans.

Two-Year Goals and Initiatives

The ACT's goals relate to its priorities and include specific details on how to pursue the goals.

Goal 1 – Review and consider transportation funding and explore additional funding sources

After hearing about current transportation revenues and alternatives for generating additional revenue, the R1ACT can provide input on revenue options to the OTC and use the information to further inform their boards and networks as they consider their own advocacy opportunities at the legislature. ACT members can also engage the communities they represent to share what they learn to help inform the broader public discussion. Specific strategies and agenda items could include:

- Receive report on ODOT's revenue forecast ✓
- How transportation funds are distributed
 - Overview of revenues and expenditures ✓
 - How ODOT programs STIP and STIF funds
- Discuss options for additional funding
 - Update on road usage charge concept ✓
 - Information from ACT members on local alternative funding sources – existing and potential
- Share funding opportunities and improve coordination
 - ACT members and staff can identify and share grant application opportunities
 - Stay informed of transportation funding conversations at JPACT and other regional forums

Goal 2 – Highlight transportation priorities throughout Region 1

Discuss types and locations of specific transportation investments, and identify priorities to pursue, with a priority on transportation investments that advance all three priorities of safety, climate and equity. Consider transportation needs within the Region 1 commute shed. Review ODOT and local governments

estimates of funds needed. Investment options can be considered in combination with revenue sources. Funding priorities can be conveyed as part of the 27-30 STIP allocation and programming process and inform regional policy makers as they engage in the funding advocacy process of Goal 1. Note that this effort overlaps with Goals 4 and 5 on safety and climate. Specific strategies and agenda items could include:

- Identify order of magnitude costs on state and local facilities for maintenance and operations
- Review existing regional priorities to invest in, considering resiliency, improving safety for all modes, replacement of aging infrastructure, and freight needs.
 - Draw from RTP, OTP, Urban Mobility Strategy, and local plans
 - Consider jurisdictional transfer initiatives
- Discuss investment and funding needed for new transportation technologies, such as electric charging and autonomous vehicles
- Highlight specific transportation needs for rural areas and small towns, urban areas and suburban areas, and freight districts
- Identify project types that advance all three of safety, climate and equity
- Consider a project identification process for areas not covered by the RTP to identify the rural area transportation vision, the transportation system needs to achieve that vision, and transportation investment priorities

Goal 3 – Identify ACT-level transportation policy priorities

Discuss land use and transportation needs throughout Region 1 to identify policy direction to advocate for in local, regional and statewide plans. Specific strategies and agenda items could include:

- Discuss policy priorities, supported in the updated OTP, that span urban and rural areas and address land use and mobility trends
- ACT members work together to advance these policies in the next Metro RTP and ODOT modal plans as they are updated

Goal 4 – Advocate for safety within Region 1

The R1ACT has identified safety as one of its priorities. The R1ACT will identify projects, strategies and policies that advance safety, support safety as a component of all ODOT projects, and advocate to address safety on all urban arterials. Specific strategies and agenda items could include:

- Understand safety data that is collected and how it is used by all agencies in the region
- Understand how safety funds are allocated by all agencies including projects and other programs
- Identify projects, strategies and policies that impact safety
- Discuss location and project types to prioritize for safety investments
- Identify options for increasing available safety funding
- Active engagement in the upcoming update of ODOT's Transportation Safety Action Plan
- Workzone safety

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Goal 5 – Address climate change

The R1ACT has identified climate as one of its priorities. Further discussion is needed to identify how the ACT will pursue this goal. Specific strategies and agenda items could include:

- Identify and recommend strategies and projects that address reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- How the ACT can help advance ODOT’s 2021-26 Climate Action Plan
- Discuss how local agencies can help implement the Statewide Transportation Strategy
- Discuss strategies for reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT) per capita for passenger vehicles in the region, supporting the OTP’s key performance target
- How transportation solutions can serve new housing while also reducing the need to drive
- Identify climate-change related hazards and threats to the transportation system and investments needed to improve resiliency

Initiative – Consider membership and meet public involvement requirements

The R1ACT will undertake a review and update of its bylaws and public participation plan. Bylaws will be reviewed to improve administration of the ACT and to ensure that membership is in accordance with OTC policy and recent legislation. The R1ACT will also review its Public Participation Plan to ensure that it meets the public involvement requirements of OTC policy and provides information on how the ACT will meet these requirements with a goal of enhanced engagement.

Meeting Topic Plan

The R1ACT will generally meet the 1st Monday of even numbered months. Meetings may be fully virtual or held in person, with a hybrid option when possible.

Meeting topics relate to the goals above or are required topics. The topics listed below are also marked with the applicable goal or goals:

- Goal 1 – Review and consider transportation funding and explore additional funding sources
- Goal 2 – Highlight transportation priorities throughout Region 1
- Goal 3 – Identify ACT-level transportation policy priorities
- Goal 4 – Advocate for safety within Region 1
- Goal 5 – Address climate change
- * Required topic

The R1ACT can revisit meeting topic priorities at any time. The work plan is intended to be flexible to address emerging issues.

Specific timing for certain topics is listed below when known, with a list of additional proposed topics following. At each meeting, the ACT may propose topics from that list or an emerging issue to cover at

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its next meeting. The ACT wishes to balance presentations with discussion time, so it may not be possible to cover all of the topics desired over the two year period of the work plan.

- October – December 2023:
 - Transportation funding sources and revenue options presentations from ODOT staff (1)
 - October – funding 101, road usage charge ✓
 - December – Biennial revenue report ✓
 - Hood River Bridge Authority project update (2) ✓
 - IBR project update (2) ✓
- January – April 2024:
 - 2023-25 Work Plan discussion and adoption *
 - 2027-2030 STIP and Great Streets 2.0 * (2)
 - Connect Oregon overview *
 - Oregon Highway Plan and Rail Plan engagement begins * (3)
- May – August 2024:
 - Connect Oregon ranking *
 - Summer construction updates
 - Legislative update
- September – December 2024:
 - 2027-30 STIP draft project list (2)
 - Transportation Safety Action Plan * (4)
- January – April 2025:
 - Track legislative session
- May – August 2025:
 - Summer construction updates
 - Legislative update
- September – December 2025:
 - tbd

Additional meeting topics that relate to the R1ACT's goals include:

- How Fix-It funds are programmed (1)
- How STIF funds are programmed (1)
- Develop viable funding options for consideration by decision-makers (1)
- Urban Mobility Strategy Funding Plan (1, 2)
- Funding jurisdictional transfers (1, 2, 4)
- New transportation technologies and related investment needs (1, 2, 3, 5)
- How Safety funds are programmed (1, 4)

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- Transportation priorities for Region 1 (2)
- Rural and small town transportation needs (2)
- Vision and project identification for rural areas (2)
- Suburban area transportation needs (2)
- Urban area transportation needs (2)
- Freight district transportation needs (2)
- Cascadia Ultra High Speed Ground Transportation (2)
- Types of projects that advance all three of safety, climate and equity (2)
- Identify funding priorities to include in next Metro RTP (2)
- Exploring how to mitigate the hidden costs of our transportation system (2, 3)
 - the impact of tire particulate on fisheries
 - harm from air particulate pollution, noise pollution
- Safety report on rural state highways within Region 1 (2, 4)
- 2023 Portland Metro RTP (3)
- Review key policies in the updated OTP and modal plans (3)
- Identify policy priorities to advance in next Metro RTP (3)
- Safety data and its use (4)
- Safety project programming (4)
- Safety investment prioritization (4)
- Safety funding and options for increasing (4)
- ODOT's Climate Action Plan 2021-2026 (5)
- Statewide Transportation Strategy (5)
- Reducing VMT per capita (5)
- Climate-change related hazards (5)
- Resiliency investments (5)
- EV charging needs and funding approach (5)

Other regional topics may include: updates on the Urban Mobility Strategy and its projects, economic needs of Region 1, ODOT's freight bottleneck study, discretionary grant opportunities, and updates on the Historic Columbia River Highway trail and other investments in the Columbia Gorge. Agendas will also include the following required topics at appropriate times: Federal Infrastructure Bill presentations, STIP process, Connect Oregon review, Oregon Transportation Plan and other modal plan updates, equity and transportation.

Reference: OTC ACT Formation Policy

https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Get-Involved/ACT/OTC_ACTpolicy.pdf