

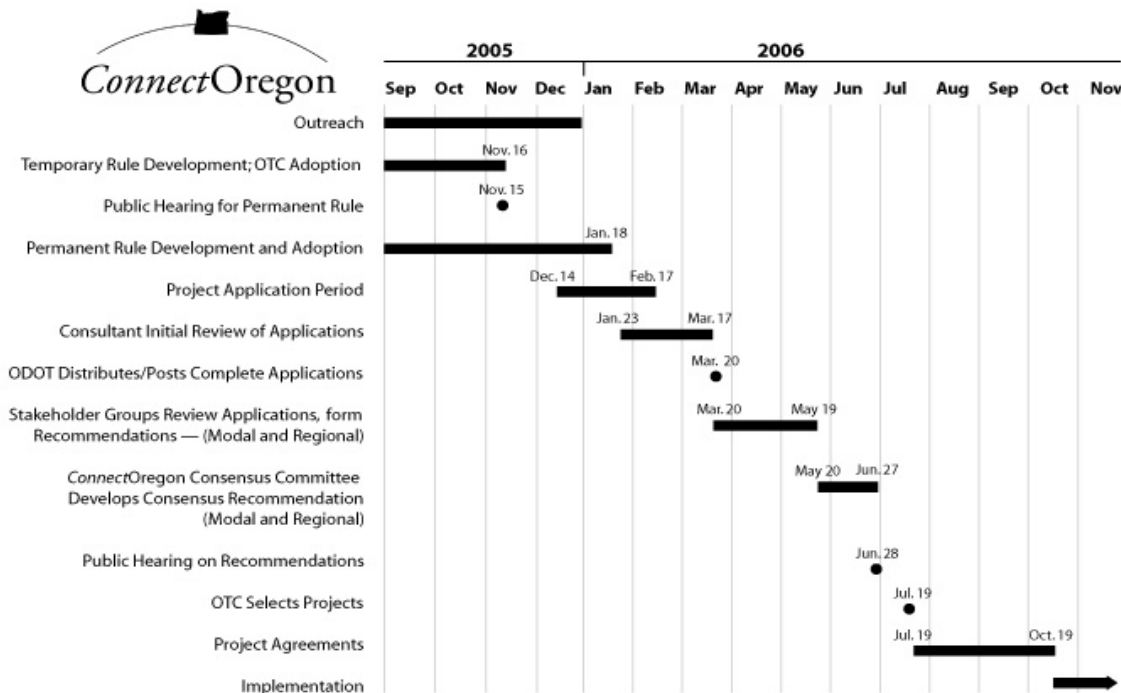
### Attachment 1 - Region 2 Process for Review of ConnectOregon Applications

The 2005 Legislature Senate Bill 71 (SB 71) created *ConnectOregon*, a \$100 million initiative to invest in air, rail, marine, and transit infrastructure. The legislation established general eligibility considerations and factors to prioritize projects, as well as a general process for the review of the applications. SB 71 allocates \$15 million to each of five regions based on counties that generally follow the ODOT Region boundaries, and \$25 million to be available on a statewide basis. ODOT staff and the OTC have worked to establish rules that will govern review of these applications.

SB 71 did not define a specific role for area commissions on transportation in the review of projects. The OTC is, *“inviting groups of Area Commissions (and Metropolitan Planning Organizations) to work with potential applicants within each ConnectOregon region to identify projects that will be good candidates for ConnectOregon funding.”* (Source: *ConnectOregon* Fact Sheet – 02/03/06 Update). The recently adopted *ConnectOregon* administrative rule (OAR 731-035-0060) states that the OTC will solicit recommendations from the State Aviation Board, Oregon Freight Advisory Committee, Public Transit Advisory Committee, and the Rail Advisory Committee. It also says that the OTC may solicit recommendations from transportation stakeholder and advocacy entities not otherwise specified.

The Oregon Transportation Commission has directed that the ACTs and their respective regions prioritize project applications on a “Super ACT” level that combines the ACTs in a region into a single body (source: memo from Lorna Youngs, ODOT Interim Director, to the Oregon Transportation Commission dated December 13, 2005). Metropolitan Planning Organizations are invited to participate in the process through their respective ACT or Lane County.

The timeline for *ConnectOregon* is illustrated below.



This schedule gives the ACTs/Lane County (with the Region's assistance) approximately eight weeks to review and rate the applications.

### **Region Process**

The following steps will be taken by Region 2 and the ACTs/Lane County to complete the review and prioritization of *ConnectOregon* applications in the Region.

1. By direction of the OTC, the project applications must be assigned to one of four groups or "buckets":
  - a) Projects that have demonstrated that they meet all six considerations in the rule.
  - b) Projects that have demonstrated that they represent strategic investments and connections – two or more modes of transportation, system improvements, and jobs/economic development; but may not be fully ready to construct, able to demonstrate lower transportation costs for Oregon business, or leverage other benefits.
  - c) Projects that achieve one or more of the strategic considerations, but not all of them.
  - d) Projects that cannot demonstrate any of the strategic or regionwide considerations.

Each ACT/Lane County will be responsible for the completion of this step. A spreadsheet is attached that is recommended for your use in completing this step.

2. OAR 731-035-0060 includes the following factors that are to be used by the OTC, ". . . *in its determination of eligible Projects to approve for receipt of funds . . .*":
  - a) Whether a proposed Project reduces transportation costs for Oregon businesses.
  - b) Whether a proposed Project benefits or connects two or more modes of transportation.
  - c) Whether a proposed Project is a critical link in a statewide or regional transportation system that will measurably improve utilization and efficiency of the system.
  - d) How much of the cost of a proposed Project can be borne by the Applicant for the grant or loan.
  - e) Whether a project creates construction or permanent jobs in the state.
  - f) Whether a Project is ready for construction, or if the Project does not involve construction, whether the Project is at a comparable stage.
  - g) Whether a project leverages other investment and public benefits from the state, other government units, or private business.
  - h) Whether the Applicant for a grant can meet the requirement to contribute 20 percent of the eligible Project costs.

Each ACT/Lane County will use these considerations to prioritize the projects in their area for each of the four categories (buckets) of project applications described in Step 1. Additionally, all projects must be prioritized as a single list across all buckets. This prioritization must be completed and results submitted to the Region 2 Planning and Development Manager by May 5, 2006. A spreadsheet is attached that is recommended for your use in completing this step. A method for "scoring" the projects is left to the discretion of the ACTs/Lane County.

At the end of this step, the ACTs/Lane County will create two products for submittal to Region 2:

- A prioritized project list by bucket; and
- A prioritized list of all projects within the area.

3. Region 2 staff will develop a straw proposal/prioritized project application list based on the input from the ACTs/Lane County and distribute the list to the ACT/Lane County Chairs and Vice Chairs by May 10, 2006. The straw proposal will be broken into three lists: 1) the highest priority projects up to \$15 million; and 2) the next highest priority projects up to \$25 million (this list is being created to identify projects to be considered for the statewide *Connect*Oregon funds); and 3) a prioritized project list by bucket.

4. Region 2 will facilitate a region “Super ACT” meeting that will include the ACTs/Lane County Chairs and Vice Chairs, Region 2 Manager, and Region 2 Planning and Development Manager. At this meeting, the ACTs/Lane County representatives will finalize a Region priority recommendation for the *Connect*Oregon project applications for each of the three lists described in Step 3. This meeting will be held on May 16, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

5. On behalf of the Region 2 “Super ACT”, Region 2 staff will transmit the project priority recommendation to the *Connect*Oregon Consensus Committee by May 17, 2006.