

 <p>Oregon Department of Transportation</p> <p><b>POLICY</b></p>	NUMBER <b>Transportation Commission-10</b>	SUPERSEDES <b>New</b>
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	REFERENCE <b>Oregon Transportation Commission Minutes, May 13, 2008</b>	
SUBJECT <b>Federal Reauthorization Highway Program Earmark Requests</b>		

## **PURPOSE**

The Oregon Transportation Commission (Commission) establishes the following policy on highway program earmark requests in the federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation in order to ensure input from local stakeholders on the Oregon Department of Transportation's (Department) earmark requests, advance broadly supported projects that are recognized as regional or statewide priorities, clearly explain expectations for earmarks for state highway projects, strengthen regional prioritization processes, and secure funding that will help deliver projects.

## **POLICY**

In the next surface transportation authorization legislation, the Commission intends to present Oregon's congressional delegation a limited number of earmark requests for transportation projects that are strategic investments in Oregon's transportation system, address important transportation problems, and have broad support. In advancing these projects, the Department commits to delivering each project if a sufficient earmark is secured by the congressional delegation. The Department shall provide or help provide matching funds and make up any shortfalls for projects on the official Commission Earmark Requests List to ensure these projects are delivered.

In developing the official Commission Earmark Requests List, the Commission shall consider recommendations from Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and other advisory bodies, as well as statewide priorities and available budget for providing required match and fully funding the project.

Department region staff and local government agencies shall work together through the ACT or similar bodies to identify and recommend appropriate projects that are high priorities for the area, have broad support, and meet the criteria laid out in this policy. Because of the important role MPOs play in determining transportation priorities within urban areas, ACTs are expected to coordinate with MPOs, seek their input for projects within MPO boundaries, and consider MPO priorities as they recommend projects. ACTs shall also seek input from any other important transportation advisory bodies within their boundaries.

ACTs and similar advisory bodies are to prepare Earmark Recommendation Lists and supporting documentation that demonstrates how each project meets the Earmark Request Criteria set forth in this policy. The Commission shall review and consider projects on the Earmark Recommendation



