

# Transportation planning occurs at several levels

Our transportation system is an important part of daily life for everyone, whether our primary concern is traffic congestion, reliable bus service, access to bike lanes, or efficient freight movement. How can we make sure our roads and transit systems are safe, efficient and reliable? Read on!

Cities, counties, and states develop plans and programs that address these transportation issues. The responsibility for transportation facilities usually falls to the jurisdiction (city, county, or state) that manages the street. For example, if you were concerned about potholes or speeding on your street, you would contact your city or county public works department. Salem-Keizer Transit is responsible for the operation and planning of our local bus system. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for highways such as Interstate 5 and Highway 22 (including the Marion and Center Street bridges). Still, because state facilities connect with local arterials, and bus service operates on city and county streets, there is a need for cooperative planning across jurisdictions and agencies.

Each jurisdiction and agency prepares its own long-range transportation plan and short-term funding/construction program

## Local

**Salem  
Keizer**

**Turner  
Marion County**

**Polk County  
Salem-Keizer Transit**

The cities of Salem, Keizer, and Turner, and Marion and Polk counties each have a transportation systems plan, which is part of their comprehensive land use plan. Cities and counties update these plans periodically to reflect changes in transportation needs. They also sometimes study and plan specific areas, for example:

- West Salem Gateway Study (Salem)
- River Road Renaissance (Keizer)
- Cordon Road - State Street to Auburn - Sub-area Plan (Marion County)

Cities and counties list their funded transportation projects in their capital improvement programs.

Salem-Keizer Transit adopted a *Strategic Business Plan* in 2004, describing its vision, policies, and actions for bus transportation over the next five years.

## Regional

**Salem-Keizer Area Transportation  
Study (SKATS)**

**Mid-Willamette Area Commission  
on Transportation (MWACT)**

The Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) brings together elected representatives from Salem, Keizer and Turner; Marion and Polk counties; Salem Transit District and ODOT. Projects from the local and statewide plans are incorporated into a SKATS Regional Transportation Systems Plan. This long-range plan contains recommended projects (road and transit improvements, bicycle facilities, etc.) and activities to accommodate anticipated growth over the next 20 years. The plan is updated every four years. The SKATS Transportation Improvement Program identifies which high-priority projects from the plan will be funded or built for an upcoming four-year period. Projects are paid for with a combination of federal, state, and local funds.

The Mid-Willamette Area Commission on Transportation (MWACT) is a forum to discuss and set regional transportation priorities on the state highway system within Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties. Priority projects are submitted to the Oregon Transportation Commission, where they compete for limited state highway modernization funds.

## Statewide

**Oregon Department of Transportation**

ODOT develops a long-range statewide transportation plan, a statewide highway plan, and a four-year funding plan (STIP).

ODOT and local jurisdictions collaborate on corridor or facility plans, such as these local plans:

- Kuebler Blvd. I-5 Interchange Area Management Plan.
- Highway 22 Expressway Management Plan (Polk County/West Salem)

## How can you help?

If you want to propose a new project, your local public works department is the best place to start. If you want to help plan for transportation, have a say in how your transportation dollars are spent, or simply want information, all of these jurisdictions have **websites** featuring local transportation planning processes and contact information. In addition, check the websites or watch your **local paper** for information **on open houses, workshops, and public hearings**. Depending on the project, jurisdictions might **mail** information to residents and **interview** stakeholders. Staff of many of the jurisdictions are available for **speaker presentations** to groups and organizations.

## **How can I participate right now?**

Seeking the participation and ideas of all segments of the public is an important part of the transportation planning process. With this in mind, we are asking you to share your ideas with us on the best way to provide you information, increase engagement, and increase participation in transportation planning within the Salem-Keizer-Turner area. A draft of our new **SKATS Public Participation Plan** is on our website at [www.mwvcog.org/transportation/skats.asp](http://www.mwvcog.org/transportation/skats.asp), and will be open for public review until September 2006. We are also starting an update of our **Regional Transportation Systems Plan**, and welcome your comments and ideas. Check our website periodically for updates. New information will be posted as it becomes available. Please contact us if you would like to be kept informed about the transportation plan update, future open houses, and other upcoming events.

Send your comments to:

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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Lori Moore at 503-588-6177 or [lomoore@mwvcog.org](mailto:lomoore@mwvcog.org)

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# **Getting you from here to there**

How we plan for transportation  
in the Salem-Keizer area and  
how you can be involved