



Call to Action

What? On behalf of the Legislative Committee of the Board of Directors, we are asking our Board Members and Membership to participate in an upcoming Oregon Transportation Commissions (the **OTC**) public meeting on January 20, 2022. This public meeting includes a section for public testimony (information on signing up given below).

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (the IIJA) funds provided Oregon with an additional \$1.2 billion in transportation funds. Two-thirds of these funds are assigned to specific programs, but there also is \$350-\$400 million in “flexible funds” available and over the next two months the OTC’s will decide how those funds will be allocated. Our regional transportation committee (Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation, aka MWACT) and the Salem-Keizer Metropolitan Planning Organization (the SKATS MPO) have both submitted letters to the OTC detailing our region’s priorities. However, direct testimony to the OTC can have a big impact. We need your help to support the transportation priorities from MWACT and SKATS, and the more members that testify will only help to have our regional priorities known -- and voices heard -- by the OTC.

In addition to the MWACT and SKATS letters, attached are talking points that summarize the priorities in those letters which you can use when testifying to the OTC. These include support for “transportation funding categories” (Enhance, Transit, etc.) – which is how the OTC will allocate funds -- as well as specific projects that fall in those categories (e.g., Newberg-Dundee bypass, Highway 22 @ 51 interchange, I-5 interchange @ Aurora/Donald, McGilchrist Avenue in Salem, the South Salem Transit Center project, etc.). Use these talking points to emphasize which transportation categories need funding and how those new funds might be put to use in our region.

How? By participating in the upcoming OTC Meeting and giving testimony on the Regional Priorities as they deal with Transportation.

Two ways to sign up to give testimony:

- Elected Officials can send an e-mail to OTCAdmin@odot.oregon.gov and request that they be put on the public testimony list for January 20th.
- Others will need to sign up on ODOT SurveyMonkey, starting one week before the meeting and up to the night before the meeting. Instructions on how to do that will be posted on the OTC’s webpage at https://www.oregon.gov/odot/get-involved/pages/otc_main.aspx

When? Here's more information about the upcoming OTC meetings. Both will be Zoom meetings.

- **January 20th** – Virtual Zoom meeting starts at 9:00 a.m., followed by public testimony (limited to two (2) minutes per person). Later in the meeting, ODOT staff will have presentations about the \$350-\$400 million in “flexible funds” and the ODOT/OTC’s process over the next two months to get public feedback on their initial scenarios for allocating these flexible funds.
- **February 17th** @ 12:30 p.m. – special OTC meeting exclusively about the IJA and flexible funds. We expect (but can’t be certain at this time) that OTC will allow public testimony at this meeting. If you cannot testify on January 20th, this is another opportunity to support the region’s transportation priorities.

Attachments:

[Letter to OTC from SKATS](#)

[Letter to OTC from MWACT](#)

[Suggested Testimony/Talking Points](#)

[MWVCOG Legislative Policy 2021](#)