

Planning and Implementation Unit Profile

The Planning Implementation Unit helps secure federal funding approval for and implements the Department's Statewide (ODOT) Planning Program through the preparation and dissemination of plans, policies, guidelines and administrative rules.

A primary role of the unit is to provide assistance designed to help achieve statewide consistency for transportation planning products and activities.

Major Products

- Development Review Guidelines
- Transportation System Planning Guidelines
- Interchange Area Management Plan Guidelines
- STIP Users Guide
- State Planning and Research Program
- Policy Recommendations to the OTC/Senior Department Managers
- Modal Plan Elements
- Funded ODOT Statewide Planning Program
- Transportation Planning Rule Amendments
- Highway Facility Plan Adoption Policy
- Location Environmental Impact Study Policy
- Highway Plan Implementation Handbook

Major Activities and Services

- Review planning products for consistency with department policy.
- Facilitate a statewide approach to addressing planning issues that have departmental impacts.
- Provide guidance on best practices for planning activities and actions.

Primary Customers

- Oregon Transportation Commission
- Senior ODOT Management
- ODOT Regions
- Planning Business Line Team
- TPAU
- TGM Program
- Long Range Planning Unit
- Freight Mobility Section
- Rail Division
- Public Transit Division
- Technical Services

- Access Management Unit
- Geo-environmental Unit
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Land Conservation and Development Commission
- Department of Justice
- MPOs
- ACTs
- FHWA
- Local Jurisdictions
- AOC/LOC
- ODOT External Stakeholders
- Stakeholder Committees
- Planning Consultants
- Public
- Legislators

Unit Staffing

The Planning Implementation Unit is staffed by six Senior Transportation Planners and a Unit Planning Manager.

Unit Capabilities

- Serve as lead staff for transportation planning projects, studies and research efforts dealing with complex issues of statewide, regional or local significance.
- Develop guidelines, handbooks, reports, briefings, plans and presentations for the Transportation Commission, Senior Department Managers, other agencies and local jurisdictions on a wide range of transportation issues based on an analysis of relevant policies, research, statutes, regulations, input from stakeholders and court decisions.
- Lead or manage projects to develop products that improve the accessibility of the STIP and the STIP development process, such as guidelines and recommendations for improvement.
- Organize and support internal and external committees engaged in identifying possible improvements to the STIP process and STIP project criteria.
- Provide budgeting, programming and financial management guidance for the SPR Program and related consultant agreements.
- Lead agency or interagency/stakeholder workgroups and committees through the planning and policy development process (STIP, IAMP, TPR, etc.).

- Provide policy direction and technical expertise on planning issues related to modal planning, system planning, refinement planning, project planning and Environmental Justice.
- Provide recommendations on policy and planning issues to Transportation Commissioners, Senior Department Managers, other agencies and local jurisdictions
- Serve as lead staff for agency rulemaking processes related to transportation planning and represent agency interests in interagency rulemaking processes.
- Develop, interpret and explain agency policies, regulations and procedures to staff, local jurisdictions, other agencies and stakeholders.
- Identify potential impacts to the Planning Section that could result from proposed or enacted legislation or regulations.
- Provide state oversight for MPO Planning programs/consultants.

Unit Accomplishments

- Updated OHP
- Updated Development Review Guidelines
- Interchange Area Management Plans (IAMP) Guidelines
- STIP Process/document improvements and streamlining
- Federally approved Statewide Planning Program (SPR)
- Completed region staff training series on updated plans, guidelines and rules
- Freight Route Analysis Project completed
- TPR amendment process nearing completion.
- TPR guidance nearing completion
- Highway Facility Plan Adoption Process policy nearing completion
- UPWP approval process underway
- TSP Update Guidelines project has been initiated
- Continuing establishment of successful, professional relationships with ODOT and external planners, and other transportation professionals – assist one another, offer ideas, review and comment.