



Bridges are a critical part of Oregon's transportation infrastructure, and they make a valuable contribution to preserving our environment. In addition, bridges help sustain Oregon's economic viability and help motorists get where they are going.

- Oregon has 6,654 bridges. The state owns 2,666 of these bridges; counties, cities and other public agencies own the rest.
- Bridges play an important role in our cultural heritage. Seventy-three bridges are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and approximately 100 more are eligible for listing.
- Federal law requires thorough bridge inspection at least once every two years.

Aging bridges appear statewide

- Most Oregon bridges were designed to be replaced after about 50 years. The state has more than 350 bridges that are nearing the end of their planned use.
- The average age of Oregon's bridges is 38 years. Twenty percent are more than 50 years old. These bridges were not designed for today's weights, traffic volumes and speeds.
- Because of demands on the transportation system for maintenance, preservation and modernization, many of Oregon's bridges have not been replaced on schedule.
- When inspections show cracks developing over a short period, ODOT must consider putting weight restrictions on these bridges to ensure public safety.
- Weight restrictions can make it more difficult to deliver goods to Oregon's communities. Higher shipping costs and delays may result.

Bridge replacement in high gear

- The 2003 Oregon Legislature approved the third funding package under the Oregon Transportation Investment Act, providing \$1.3 billion to repair and replace state-owned bridges over a 10-year period.
- These bridges are located on important freight routes including Interstate 5, Interstate 84, U.S. 20 and U.S. 97.
- The bridge program is being carried out in phases to minimize the impact on freight and travelers and to take advantage of efficiencies in design and construction.
- In addition to repairing state-owned bridges, OTIA III provided local agencies, cities and counties with \$500 million to repair and replace other bridges on routes that are important to the movement of freight.
- Plans for repair or replacement cover only the most heavily used routes. Meeting the needs of all users throughout Oregon will require additional funding (see more information about funding needs in the "Oregon Transportation Plan" section).