



What is the Office of Innovative Partnerships?

- The Office of Innovative Partnerships and Alternative Funding (OIPAF) is a unit of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) that works to create public-private partnerships benefiting the state transportation system and its citizens.
- This office runs the Oregon Innovative Partnerships Program (OIPP), a program created in 2003 by the Oregon Legislature (ORS 367.800 to 367.826).
- ODOT is one of a handful of states with legal authority to enter into public-private partnerships through negotiated agreement.

Why create a new program?

- The legislature recognized that, in Oregon, the normal ways of financing transportation infrastructure have not kept up with the growing needs of its citizens.
- This new program allows ODOT access to private sector creativity, innovation, flexibility and entrepreneurship that may result in unique ways to solve transportation problems—ways that are not readily available with traditional approaches to funding transportation projects.

How does it work?

- OIPP can receive either solicited or unsolicited proposals for transportation projects.
- Proposals can be from private entities, other units of government, or a combination of the two.
- Proposals are evaluated based on criteria detailed in Oregon's Administrative Rules (OAR 731, Division 70).
- The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) has ultimate authority to approve both the projects that go forward and the terms of each agreement.

What kinds of projects are eligible?

- The law defines a "transportation project" as any undertaking that facilitates any mode of transportation. This may include highways, rail, public transit, air, port facilities, and even other non-traditional projects such as utility transmission lines and fiber optics.
- Ultimately, the OTC will decide how broad a range of "transportation projects" they want to take on. However, from a legal standpoint, the commission has very broad authority.



What “innovative” guidelines apply to projects under OIPP?

- The law exempts OIPP from most of the public procurement requirements in the Oregon Revised Statutes, allowing it to design specific approaches to fit the needs of individual projects.
- The law created a new Transportation Enterprise Fund as a separate account in the Oregon Treasury for use with OIPP projects, as needed.
- The law enables many funding options to be considered in projects, including user fees, direct contributions, debt instruments, and special improvement districts.
- The law expands ODOT’s right of Eminent Domain to acquire real property for transportation purposes even for cases where ultimate ownership of the facility/property may be non-state.

What is OIPP working on currently?

1. A Request for Proposals was opened in spring 2005 for three major highway projects that could total close to \$1 billion if fully developed. Proposals received will be evaluated and successful proposers will go forward into contract negotiations. Depending on the outcome of negotiations, pre-development work should commence on the projects in early 2006.
2. In addition, ODOT is working on using OIPP as a means of exchanging various highway maintenance facility properties around the state for new facilities. These properties were at one time outside of urban areas but as cities and towns have grown, many facilities are now in areas considered prime for development. ODOT is working to exchange these properties for land and facilities that make more sense for cities, towns, and ODOT.
3. Unsolicited proposals are invited on projects yet to be considered.

Who supports OIPP?

OIPP has support from the Oregon Legislature, which created the program; the Governor, who signed it into law; the Oregon Transportation Commission, which adopted the rules for the program and gave the go-ahead on the current projects; and ODOT’s Director who was involved with the program’s rollout.

How can I learn more?

Visit the OIPP web site at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OIPP or contact the office at 355 Capitol St. NE, Room 115, Salem OR 97301, (503) 986-3193.