

Move Oregon Forward is a statewide coalition working to ensure Oregon's transportation investments are **safer, more accountable and accessible, cleaner and better aligned with long-term priorities**, so limited dollars go further and communities can trust the system.



Policy Priorities

The Move Oregon Forward campaign has **two priority bills for 2026** designed to increase accountability at ODOT. **Measure What We Drive** sets standards to ensure major projects actually meet Oregon's transportation goals. **Guardrails for Good Governance** establishes strict oversight to improve how the agency manages its debt, budget, and projects. We're asking for better results, not more money. By making sure every dollar is used efficiently, we can improve results while keeping the state's financial burden low.

Measure What We Drive

Why Now?

Too often, outdated and overly broad legislative direction requires ODOT to commit funding to new projects with limited information on their costs and benefits, all at the expense of addressing maintenance and inadequate safety for current bridges, streets, and transit services.

With already-limited budgets, ODOT needs a performance-based, easy-to-understand accountability framework that assesses projects based on safety, infrastructure maintenance, climate impact, and more.

Guardrails for Good Governance

Why Now?

ODOT's debt service costs have surged by 400% since 2007, far outpacing growth in revenues.

This is due to outdated policies that encourage ODOT to leverage maximum debt for projects without complete plans and financial analysis, oversight, or public accountability. Current and future bridge, seismic, preservation, and safety projects are already being defunded to cover ballooning debt costs.

*These policies are drawing from proven practices from California, Colorado, Minnesota, Virginia, Washington



Measure What We Drive

What's in the bill?

- Newly proposed projects get scored on projected outcomes. This scoring system will assess projects based on safety, climate impact, infrastructure maintenance, and cost effectiveness.
- ODOT's project scoring will identify where they're falling short of their goals, and can actively invest more in projects that can close the gap.
- ODOT publishes an annual report card that shows how Oregon is doing to meet our transportation goals and what steps are being taken to improve outcomes in future years.

Outcomes:

Oregonians and legislators have transparency around transportation investments that improve safety, maintenance, and climate outcomes. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC), Legislature, and ODOT will have shared clarity and priorities on how projects meet the state's goals and ensure every investment is made in alignment with those objectives.

Guardrails for Good Governance

What's in the bill?

- Create Oregon's first transportation debt management policy requiring ODOT and the OTC to balance today's cash flow needs with flexible funding for the future when making debt decisions.
- Provide decision-makers and the public with the information they need when they need it, to ensure that risks, opportunity costs, and alternative options are disclosed before the agency takes on new debt.
- Reform the OTC to include representation from more regions and communities, improve transparency and public participation, and work more directly with legislators.

Outcomes:

The OTC and Oregon Legislature will have more oversight and be able to better support ODOT with debt, financial, and project management. In addition, the OTC will have expanded geographic and community representation to ensure that debt is used effectively to meet the diverse transportation needs across the state.

Move Oregon Forward is supported by many nonprofits and advocates who are seeking a safer, affordable, accountable, and climate-forward transportation sector. View the full list of supporters at <https://www.moveoregonforward.org/supporters>

Have Questions? Contact Indi Namkoong at indinamkoong@verdenw.org or Brett Morgan at brett.morgan@climatesolutions.org

Our Core Members Include

