

## ANALYSIS

### Item 43: Department of Transportation Tri-State Truck Parking Information System

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**Analyst:** Michelle Deister

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America program in the amount of \$12,000,000 to complete development of a truck parking information management system in cooperation with the states of California and Washington.

**Analysis:** The Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant program is a discretionary federal grant program focused on alleviating congestion and promoting freight mobility. The development of a joint Truck Parking Infrastructure Management System will enable freight drivers to access real time information about the availability of parking along the I-5 corridor, enhancing safety and maintaining efficiency for commercial drivers.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) notified the Legislative Fiscal Office and Chief Financial Office of discrepancies between the grant amount identified in its request letter and the actual amount subsequently requested in its grant application. The actual amount of requested grant funds totaled \$12,287,247. This change was due to updated cost estimates for all three states determined just before the application was submitted.

Of the \$20.5 million total project cost across the three states, Oregon will contribute \$3.5 million in matching funds, California will provide \$3.1 million, and Washington will contribute \$1.6 million. The Oregon and California match amounts were updated subsequent to the amounts initially identified in the agency's request letter. State match amounts are determined, in part, by the number of locations in each state the system will monitor, number of parking stalls at each site, and type of technology being used to monitor availability of parking. ODOT's matching funds will be supported with approximately \$1.8 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds set aside by the Oregon Transportation Commission to be used as matching funds for competitive grants, and \$1.8 million in existing staffing and resources in the agency's Policy, Data and Analysis Division. ODOT provided a notification of its intent to apply for the grant on August 7, 2023, and the grant application was due August 21, 2023. The notification of awards is anticipated in early 2024 and awarded funds must be obligated by September 30, 2026.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the federal grant application request in the amount of \$12,287,247.

**Request:** Retroactive authorization to apply for a grant totaling \$12 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation, with the Washington State Department of Transportation and California State Transportation Agency to create a Truck Parking Information System along the Interstate 5 corridor.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) along with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the California State Transportation Agency (Caltrans) have identified a Tri-State Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS) as a viable project for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant, through the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Since ODOT's submission of the original letter requesting retroactive authorization to apply for this grant, the department has received revised financial information from the federal grant applicant, WSDOT, updating the amount of the potential grant amount to \$12,287,247.

Currently, truck drivers traveling the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor between all three states have difficulty finding safe and adequate parking on I-5 prior to their hours-of-service (HOS) expiration. The I-5 TPIMS project will collect and disseminate real-time truck parking information, helping truck drivers make better-informed truck parking decisions and enabling an efficient use of existing truck parking capacity.

The INFRA grant will award up to 60 percent of project costs and the non-federal match must be at least 20 percent. With the updated grant request, the total project cost will be approximately \$20.5 million with a maximum of \$12.3 million in INFRA funding, leaving a \$8.2 million in-state match requirement. Each state's match contributions are:

Oregon - \$3,523,386      Washington - \$1,548,035      California - \$3,120,076

WSDOT is the lead applicant for this grant with ODOT and Caltrans as co-applicants. The \$8.2 million match varies based on the number of TPIMS being installed, and the cost of installation may vary depending on the site location within the state (urban vs rural). ODOT plans to install the new system in nine locations, WSDOT plans to install the system in five locations, and Caltrans plans to install the new system in 26 locations. The ODOT portion of the match is greater due to the number of locations for the new installation, the average parking stalls per site, technology required at larger sites, and the costs associated with information technology procurement and management.

ODOT submitted a 10-day request to apply on August 4, 2023. The federal grant notice was published on June 26, 2023, with an application submission date of August 21, 2023. The federal grant award date was not announced, but ODOT anticipates an early 2024 announcement.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11

Salem, OR 97301

August 4, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## **NATURE OF THE REQUEST**

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Policy, Data & Analysis Division requests permission to apply for approximately \$12 million in federal surface transportation funding, in partnership with the States of Washington and California, under the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) 2023 discretionary grant program for the Tri-State Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS). INFRA grant funding was increased to \$8 billion over five years due to the Infrastructure Improvements and Jobs Act (IIJA).

## **AGENCY ACTION**

The INFRA grant program provides federal financial assistance to a large variety of highway, bridge, and multimodal projects to improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure. It is a competitive federal discretionary grant program specifically designed to alleviate congestion and promote freight mobility. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to states, tribes, and local governments. A range of project types are eligible for INFRA grants, including both project development and construction activities. Competitive projects will meet the program goals of supporting economic vitality, addressing climate change, advancing racial equity, leveraging federal funding, use of innovation, safety, and accountability. The Notice of Funding Opportunity was issued by USDOT on June 26, 2023, and applications are due August 21, 2023. An award date has not been announced, but it is expected to be in early 2024. Awarded funds must be obligated by September 30, 2026, and must be expended expeditiously once the project begins.

ODOT, together with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the California State Transportation Agency (Caltrans), have identified the Tri-State Truck Parking Information Management System as an excellent candidate for this grant program.

Truck drivers traveling in California, Oregon, and Washington face challenges finding safe and adequate parking on I-5. When truck drivers are unable to find truck parking, they are forced to make a choice between stopping before their hours-of-service (HOS) expire, driving while fatigued or beyond their HOS allowance, or parking in an undesignated and potentially unsafe

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location. This results in negative safety, economic, environmental, infrastructure, and quality of life impacts to truck drivers, businesses, and communities. The I-5 TPIMS project will collect and disseminate real-time truck parking information, helping truck drivers make better-informed truck parking decisions and enabling the more efficient use of existing truck parking capacity.

Given the significance of the I-5 corridor - including connections to other important corridors (I-10, I-80, I-84, I-90) and international gateways (Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, Portland, Tacoma, and Seattle) - this project presents an opportunity to realize benefits beyond California, Oregon, and Washington to support regional, national, and international supply chains.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| INFRA Request:      | \$ 12.0 million       |
| ODOT match:         | \$ 3.7 million        |
| WSDOT match:        | \$ 1.6 million        |
| Caltrans match:     | <u>\$ 2.7 million</u> |
| Total Project Cost: | \$ 20.0 million       |

The INFRA grant program limits grant funding to 60 percent of the project cost, and non-Federal match must be at least 20 percent. ODOT's required match is higher than Washington's because Oregon is installing the system at nine locations while Washington is planning for only five sites. ODOT has also budgeted a somewhere higher amount due to different technological requirements. ODOT's portion of matching funds for the project will come from \$40 million in flexible IIJA spending set aside by the Oregon Transportation Commission specifically to use as matching funds for federal discretionary grants. WSDOT is the lead applicant for this grant, with ODOT and Caltrans as co-applicants. If this grant is not awarded, the TPIMS system will not be installed, and truck drivers would continue to find it challenging to assess availability of truck parking at state rest areas ahead of time.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

ODOT, in partnership with WSDOT and Caltrans, requests permission to apply for approximately \$12 million in federal surface transportation funding under the USDOT INFRA 2023 discretionary grant program.

#### **LEGISLATION AFFECTED**

None.

Sincerely,



Kristopher W. Strickler  
Director