



BEST Mission

“Facilitating economic growth, highway safety and reduced environmental impacts by ensuring an adequate infrastructure for the efficient movement of freight in the Portland Metro region.”

Business Case

A disproportionate share of local, state and federal dollars available for transportation infrastructure projects in the Portland metropolitan area are being allocated to projects supporting bicycle, pedestrian and commuter infrastructure while critical freight-related projects go unfunded. As a case in point, almost half of the available Regional Flexible Funds for the 2010-13 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program were allocated to alternative modes while a much smaller percentage of those funds were spent on projects generally considered important by the freight community.

While the freight community has made strides in creating and maintaining policy groups, such as the Portland Freight Committee and the Metro Regional Freight Committee, there is a need to enhance the freight community’s ability to influence important transportation funding decisions. To that end, we have formed the first coalition in the state of Oregon with the sole purpose of advocating, on the local, regional and state levels, for freight-related projects.

Overall Coalition Objectives

Objectives will be reached through a mix of advocacy, educational outreach and grassroots mobilization.

- Ensure that an appropriate percentage of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is allocated to previously identified freight priority projects;
- Ensure that key projects are incorporated in the State Freight Plan, Metro Freight Plan and the Portland Freight plan;
- Ensure that *economic* considerations are included in the decision-making process when freight projects and funding are debated; and
- Ensure that the dispersion of funds for alternative modes of transportation are not allocated at the expense of high-priority freight projects

90-Day Work Plan

Stage I

- Membership development and recruitment
- Finalize coalition name
- Assemble governing board
- Make public announcement

Stage II

- Incorporate and register coalition
- Introductory meetings of coalition principals and staff to staff and members of:
 - METRO
 - Washington County Coordinating Committee

- Clackamas County Coordinating Committee
- East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC)
- Survey freight coalition members and other representative businesses throughout region about high priority projects

Stage III

- Finalize and execute 2010-11 coalition work-plan and budget

Examples of Project Targets

	EMCTC	Wash County	Clark County	Portland
MTIP	Sundial Rd. Sandy Blvd Widening Marine Drive 257 th	Evergreen Rd. 124 th Avenue Expansion	Kinsman Rd.	St. Johns Rail Relocation
Stimulus	Graham Rd.		Sunrise Phase 1	
Other State/Federal Appropriations	TBD			

Funding

Coalition members wishing to participate in the ***governance*** of the coalition will be broken down into four tiers.

Tier I – Large companies (Annual revenue > \$1B) – \$7500-\$10,000/year
Exact amount depends on regional freight presence (self-reported).

Tier II – Medium companies (Annual revenue between \$500M-\$1B) – \$5,000/year

Tier III – Small companies (Annual revenue < \$500M) – \$2,500/year

Tier IV – Trade Associations – \$5,000/year

****Organizations may also contribute any amount and join the coalition on a nonvoting basis****