

## Regional Travel Options:

Metro's Regional Travel Options (RTO) program supports Metro's mission of making a great place by increasing the awareness of non-single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel options such as biking, walking, taking transit, and ridesharing, and telecommuting/compressed work weeks. To accomplish this, the RTO program provides strategic investments that contribute to economic, environmental, and socio-economic health and prosperity for the region.

## Regional Travel Options Grants

For more information visit:

[www.oregonmetro.gov/traveloptions](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/traveloptions)



Metro, the regional government, crosses city limits and county lines to build a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Representing a diverse population of 1.5 million people in 25 cities and three counties, Metro's directly elected council gives voters a voice in decisions about how the region grows and communities prosper.

## Description

Efficient living (EL) means living in a neighborhood where the things you need and want are either close by or within easy access by public transportation, walking, or bicycling. Services can include employment and transportation counseling, and employer encouragement and supportive services for employees to relocate to neighborhoods near their workplace.

## Purpose/Outcomes

The purpose of efficient living is to reduce regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by enabling people to live closer to their workplace, or work closer to their residence. Program objectives can include:

- Increase neighborhood mobility and livability
- Strengthen the link between housing and jobs
- Increase employee stability and wealth creation through home ownership
- Decrease parking demand
- Decrease transportation costs, especially for low-income and minority groups

## Examples/Best Practices Include

- Swan Island Efficient Living and Neighborhood Notes: Neighborhood Notes and Trip Not Taken is a website that provides information to residents in North/Northeast Portland about transportation, employment, recreation, and community resources to support location efficient living.<sup>1</sup>
- Housing Authority of Portland Regional WorkSource and Transportation Mobility Counseling: Regional housing and transportation mobility counseling provides individualized services, including rental assistance, case management, and workforce training to low-income households. Assistance includes identification of specific transit, carpool, bicycling and pedestrian options, clear calculations that show the combined costs of housing and transportation under various housing choice scenarios, and assistance locating and securing location-efficient housing.

## Marketing Methods

- Use existing transportation materials (e.g., bike and walking maps, transit schedules) to promote safe and efficient commute options.
- Familiarize new residents with nearby amenities and services through individual travel counseling and trip planning.
- Utilize Drive Less Connect or other ridematching resources to find potential carpool partners.

1. Access Neighborhood Notes at: <http://tnt.neighborhoodnotes.com/>

## Measurement

- Measure increase in employees of who have home zip codes in the project area, based on new hires and changed addresses recorded by HR records or respective employers.
- Analyze home buying and employment trends to identify an existing increase or decrease via follow up surveys of program participants.
- Increasing awareness, local home ownership among employees, and local job placement among local residents, or other before and after evaluations

## Grant Qualifications

- **Does the proposed investment contribute to increasing use of non-SOV modes?**  
This is established through a project proposal that provides a logical explanation demonstrating how the funded efforts will contribute to the increased use of non-SOV modes, identifying specific performance targets for each investment.
- **Does the applicant demonstrate interest and willingness?**  
Have strategic partners been identified and indicated their commitment to the project? This is established through a project proposal that identifies the specific opportunity or problem to which the applicant is responding.
- **Does the applicant have local financial support?**  
Minimum match requirements are used as base-level eligibility criteria. The minimum level is set at CMAQ thresholds, the federal source for RTO grants. Higher local match levels are needed when proposing higher-risk efforts and are rewarded through extra points in the scoring process.
- **Does the applicant have the capacity to implement?**  
This is determined based on the applicant's demonstration of a viable long-term business model and funding commitments.

### RTO Grant Timeline:

- Dec. 20, 2012 – Application packets available
- Jan. 9, 2013 – RTO Workshop
- Feb/Mar – Grant applications due
- Mar/Apr – Grant awards announced
- April to June – Grant agreements negotiated/ signed
- July 1, 2013 – RTO Grant projects begin
- June 30, 2015 – RTO Grant projects completed

