

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



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

Public events encourage residents to utilize non-single occupancy vehicle travel options in the region. Public events include both singular and recurring events.

Purpose/Outcomes

Public events that encourage greater use of transportation options serve our community by highlighting the Portland Metro region as a 'walkable' and 'bikeable' place. Events like Sunday Parkways enhance the health, transportation, air quality, environment, recreational opportunities, and public safety interests of our communities. Providing recreational opportunities in a low- or no-car environment is a key element to changing transportation behaviors. Outcomes include the following:

- Reduce auto trips and improve air quality
- Increase the health and activity of residents
- Increase awareness of global warming and the role transportation plays
- Increase neighborhood awareness and raise acceptability of bicycling and walking as modes of travel
- Increase trips by walking and biking
- Increase neighborhood mobility and livability
- Create community within neighborhoods
- Leverage resources from public and private partnerships
- Provide residents an opportunity to discover and appreciate neighborhood parks

Examples/Best Practices Include:

- **Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT):**
Portland Sunday Parkways promotes healthy active living through a series of free events opening the city's largest public space - its streets - to walk, bike, roll, and discover active transportation while fostering civic pride, stimulating economic development. Sunday Parkways represents the community, business, and government investments in Portland's vitality, livability, and diversity.¹
- **Wilsonville Sunday Streets:**
Wilsonville Sunday Streets is a special event that will focus on connecting neighborhoods, parks, and people. Bicyclists, walkers, runners, seniors, adults and children will enjoy traffic-free streets filled with fun and interactive entertainment, music, physical activities, and food.²

1. For more information visit: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/58929>

2. For more information visit: <http://www.ridesmart.com/index.aspx?page=220>

Measurement

- Pedestrian and cyclist counts at event
- Participant surveys and photos
- Distribution of flyers
- Email and social media promotion and tracking

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 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

