

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned Through Participation In The Connect Oregon State Selection Process

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Central Oregon rep to Connect Oregon I and II State Project Selection Committee

Step 1

Regions and modes rank projects, typically “high”, “medium” or “low” (Some regions ranked numerically.)

Any project ranked “low” is probably consigned to death.

Modal as well as regional ranking is vital

Step 2

ODOT staff consolidate projects statewide according to regional/modal ranking

Craft project submissions with statewide significance in mind. Demonstrate in project narrative.

Step 3

Selection Committee makes first cut. Typically, projects ranked “high” by region and mode move to “safe list” and projects ranked “low” by either are dropped from further consideration. Small budget projects are moved to a “parking lot”

Projects of “statewide” significance are disproportionately located in Region 1 (Metro). Argument will ensue regarding whether these should count against the Metro “allocation.”

Project proponents may not be allowed to speak. Regional representative needs to understand project details enough to be able to defend them.

Step 4

Discussion regarding list, considering

- Regional equity
- Modal equity
- Statewide vs regional significance

The modes drive the process, but the regions (by virtue of numbers) control the outcome. Stay close to the modal reps. Work closely with other regions within your ODOT District.

Step 5

“Value engineering” exercise

Value Engineering. Know your potential cuts. If the region is or mode is “heavy,” you may have to offer up cuts to get to parity. If the region is “light”, don’t offer anything at this point. It is helpful to have a ranked priority list from the region in your back pocket at this point; however, this list should NOT be shared.

Step 6

“Let’s make a deal!”

Be prepared that regional rep may have to move a lower priority project on to the list to fit the budget. The most you will get out of this process is 20 percent of the available funding.

In deal-making, the first proposal out the door will likely be close to the final proposal if it comes late in the process. If it comes early in the process, it is probably not going to look anything like the final proposal.

Idealists will inevitably advocate to close down the meeting early. This will not happen. The committee will take the time available to negotiate the final deal. The final deal will be made in the final hour. Be vigilant to the end, as there will be continuous efforts to “tweak” the final allocation—even after you think the list is closed.