

Memorandum

May 21, 2021

TO: Infrastructure Finance Authority Board
FROM: Chris Cummings, Assistant Director
SUBJ: Oregon Infrastructure and Community Facilities Inventory

Requested Action

Informational Only For Board Input For Board Action (see Recommended Motion)

Background

In years past, Business Oregon has led and managed a statewide effort to inventory the short and long-term infrastructure and capital improvement needs of local communities and port districts. This inventory was used by the agency to understand community needs and priorities and justify funding requests from the legislature. A statewide, comprehensive inventory of community infrastructure and facility needs has not been conducted by Business Oregon since 2008. Currently, the agency does not have a predictive and reliable assessment of community needs or their priorities. As a result, communities can be less strategic in their funding requests, and requests tend to follow the most recent crisis, mandate, or opportunity. We propose to begin to resolve this by conducting a biennial and ongoing Oregon Infrastructure and Community Facilities Inventory (OICFI).

Project

Business Oregon staff is requesting agency support to build an infrastructure and community facilities inventory that documents the short and long-term funding needs in communities (i.e. cities, counties, ports, special districts, tribes, and other organizations) in the state. The resulting list will provide decision-makers with community-supported specific infrastructure investments that will aid in Oregon's recovery and continued prosperity.

The goal of the project is to create an inventory and map locally identified and regionally significant infrastructure needs, in a manner that is consistent with local master plans, EOA's CEDs, and the state's strategic plan. Furthermore, this list will aid in the development and modernization of existing programs to better meet the needs statewide, while serving as a credible source of information for legislators.

We anticipate the inventory will be used for these purposes:

- Assess program policies to ensure programs meet needs.
- Justify recapitalization requests for existing programs or create new programs, if needed.
- Inform legislators about community needs and their priorities, and the amount of funding needed to complete the projects.
- Coordinate community funding requests across agencies.

- Meet request of the IFA Board to develop an inventory of infrastructure and capital improvement needs.
- Serve as a guide for strategic investments in transformational projects.
- Provide credibility to community funding requests.
- Aid Regional Development Officers in community outreach and project development, particularly in underserved communities and those with limited capacity.

Under the guidance of the IFA Board, Business Oregon will work with local communities to compile and summarize information provided by the communities and regions to create a comprehensive pipeline of infrastructure and community facility projects around the state. Business Oregon will also continue to gather new information and implement a two-year strategy to update community needs to prepare for the biennial legislative budgets and justify department funding requests.

Program Details:

- Business Oregon will identify an external stakeholder group to review the process and methodology.
- Staff will provide regular updates to the IFA Board.
- Program Policy Coordinators will be involved to provide update and guidance to programs.
- The OICFI will be updated on a regular basis (i.e. every 2 years).

Funding Summary

We do not have a specific funding request at this time.

Recommended Motion

Move to approve the Business Oregon Regional Development Team lead a statewide effort to develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide Oregon Infrastructure and Community Facilities Inventory.