

### Description of Local Public Health Authority Process Measure for Active Transportation

#### Context:

In June 2017, Oregon's [Public Health Advisory Board](#) (PHAB) established a set of accountability metrics to track progress towards improved health outcomes achieved through a [modern public health](#) system. These metrics emphasize Oregon's population health priorities and help identify when goals aren't being met. These metrics also identify where public health can work with other sectors to achieve shared goals. Active transportation is one of two accountability metrics for Environmental Public Health.

Process measures for local public health authorities were created to highlight key actions that will need to be taken to make progress on the accountability metrics. These process measures bring attention to the unique and essential roles and functions of local public health authorities (LPHAs).

#### Process Measure:

The local public health process measure for the active transportation measure reads as follows:

***Local Public Health Authority participation in leadership or planning initiatives related to active transportation, parks and recreation, or land use***

#### Eligible types of planning processes, standing committees, and governing or leadership boards

##### Participation in advisory committees or planning groups for the following:

1. Transportation System Plans (TSP)  
Definition: A TSP defines the transportation system desired for the future and how it can be achieved. It identifies transportation systems, as well as outlines policies and strategies necessary to meet existing and future travel needs (motor vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, transit, freight, air, marine, pipeline and rail as applicable) based on projected population, employment growth and community aspirations.  
Point of contact: City transportation, planning or public works department  
Additional information: [ODOT Transportation System Plan Guidelines](#)
2. Comprehensive Plans (land use)  
Definition: The comprehensive plan, also known as a general plan, master plan or land-use plan, is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. This includes guidance on how to make decisions on public and private land development proposals, the expenditure of public funds, availability of tax policy (tax incentives), cooperative efforts and issues of pressing concern such as farmland preservation or the rehabilitation of

older neighborhoods areas. Most plans are written to provide direction over a 10- to 20-year period after plan adoption. However, plans should receive a considered review and possible update every five years.

Point of contact: City planning department

3. Zoning Code Updates

Definition: Local (municipal) law that specifies how and for what purpose each parcel of private real estate may be used. Also called zoning ordinance.

Point of contact: City planning department

4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans

Definition: Defines the bicycle and/or pedestrian element of the Transportation System Plan in greater detail. May be incorporated into the Transportation System Plan as a chapter or adopted as a stand-alone document.

Point of contact: City transportation, planning or public works department

Additional information: [ODOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program](#)

5. Transit Development Plans or Transit Master Plans

Definition: A long range plan for the future of the transit system. Should inform the Transportation System Plan.

Point of contact: Transit agency; economic development district

Additional information: [ODOT Transit Development Plan Guidebook](#)

6. Transportation Safety Plans (ex. Corridor Safety Plans)

Definition: Addresses safety considerations. Topic and scope will vary. Common examples include a transportation corridor that has a high number of crashes (geographic based), or an issue such as bicycle safety (topic based).

Point of contact: City or county public works or planning, ODOT

Additional information: [Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan, 2016](#)

7. Neighborhood, Community or other Local Area Plans

Definition: These plans are typically prepared in support of a Comprehensive Plan and must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. They often provide additional guidance on how the Comprehensive Plan will be implemented in a particular area. Not all such plans will address opportunities for active transportation.

Point of Contact: City planning department; parks and recreation districts

8. Parks and Recreation Plans

Definition: A plan for the future of parks in the community. Usually includes trails and paths which are part of the park system. May be adopted as a chapter of a Comprehensive Plan.

Point of contact: City parks department; parks and recreation districts

9. Safe Routes to School Action Plans

Definition: Describes walking and biking facilities within a specified radius around a school to identify barriers for children walking and biking to school. Proposes a course of action.

Point of contact: Individual schools, city planning or public works, or through local advocacy groups.

Additional information: [ODOT Safe Routes to School Programs](#)

10. Health Impact Assessments related to land use and transportation planning

Definition: HIAs are structured processes for informing public sector decision-making processes such as the development of land use and transportation plans. They can be led by public agencies or non-governmental organizations and often have advisory or steering committees or other mechanisms for getting stakeholder input. Not all HIAs related to land use and transportation planning will address opportunities for active transportation.

Point of contact: Varies—local public health staff would be the best place to start.

Additional information: [OHA Health Impact Assessment Program](#)

**Participation in the following standing committees, governing bodies and leadership boards:**

1. [Area Commissions on Transportation](#): Regional committees that make recommendations on transportation issues, including making funding recommendations to ODOT.
2. Planning Commissions: City and county decision-making bodies, generally appointed by a city manager or city council. Makes recommendations to city council on land use decisions.
3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees: Some cities may have a standing advisory committee. These committees generally have an application process and are appointed by city manager, mayor or city council. An example is the [City of Eugene Active Transportation Committee](#).
4. Transit Agency Board: If the transit agency is a stand-alone district, rather than a department of the city, they are likely to have a board of directors. The board of directors may set agency policy, enact legislation or provide oversight.

**Summary:**

The intention of the active transportation process measure is to gather information on the relationships between local public health authorities and governing or leadership groups that oversee transportation planning. LPHAs are best positioned to identify and connect with local and regional efforts in their communities, and LPHAs bring a valuable perspective to transportation and land use planning. By bringing health considerations to transportation planning efforts, the public health system can increase community access to active transportation options.