



Image: Timeline infographic, designed by Freepik.com

The Issue

To what extent are transportation dollars advancing public endeavors, in particular, economic, health and other livability goals?

Who decides how to invest public dollars and how do states and metropolitan areas make these decisions?

The Implications

This comparative research aims to shed light on what practices within federal and state initiatives are most effective in aligning transportation funding with livability goals.

The Partners

- UO Environmental & Natural Resources Law Center
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Transportation for America

The Research

This project looks at several case study states (initially California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Utah, and Tennessee) to answer multiple questions: What are the desired or stated livability goals of transportation investments? How are transportation funding decisions made? How effective are these investments in promoting livability goals?

A team of two researchers and two graduate students is analyzing documents to answer these questions. Policy experts from Transportation for America and the Natural Resources Defense Council are helping to guide the research.

The research will be prepared for academic and practitioner audiences in academic journals, trade journals and will be presented at conferences. Policy recommendations will inform the efforts of partners and others looking to reform national transportation policy to improve livability for all.

Project Information

Researchers:

Rebecca Lewis, rlewis9@uoregon.edu
Rob Zako, rzako@uoregon.edu

Link: nitc.trec.pdx.edu/research/project/875