Who we are:

Our mission is similar to that of other state DOT research programs, which is to deliver a research, development and technology transfer program that “anticipates and addresses transportation concerns before they become critical problems”. In other words we are an applied research program that is focused on research that promises to yield implementable results in the near term. Our section also includes the Oregon Technology Transfer (T2) Center, Oregon’s LTAP program and the ODOT library. Our LTAP center is focused on meeting the safety and transportation technology needs of local agency street, road and other public works maintenance programs in Oregon.

What we do:

Approximately 25% of research is performed in-house. The balance is performed through contracts with universities and other public sector organizations like the US Geological Survey, the US Department of Energy, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. A very small number of projects, fewer than one per year, are contracted with private consultants. We currently have at least one contract with each of six different universities.

How we are funded:

Sources of funding includes SPR Part 2 (60%), Oregon State Highway funds (21%) SPR Part 1 (12%), LTAP (4%) and local government (4%).

Staff:

Research Staff includes a manager, eight professional research staff and one support employee. Our LTAP program consists of a Director, the director’s assistant and three part time trainers. Our library is staffed by one librarian.
Expertise:
We are a multi-modal department and our research portfolio includes a broad spectrum of applied research topics. In house staff possess advanced training and field experience in physics, metallurgy, biology, geophysics, geotechnical engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, applied statistics, economics, materials science, demography, sociology and archaeology.

Facilities:
Our offices are located just off the Capital Mall in Salem Oregon. We have access to the Department’s Materials Lab, which offers a range of testing equipment and capabilities.

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