

# Revenue update shows impact of fewer vehicles on roads, DMV office closures

ODOT's July revenue forecast reflects the financial losses the State Highway Fund has sustained due to the economic downturn.

This update to the April forecast increases the total estimated revenue loss to \$170 million for 2020 and 2021.

Because the state's projected economic recovery will extend into 2024, the impact will expand as well, increasing to a total of about \$250 million in lost revenue from 2020 to 2024, when compared to the October 2019 forecast.

This amount is split between cities, counties and ODOT, so the impact will be felt statewide.

"Certainly we will need to review the plans, projects and programs we had in place with the previous budget to determine where we need to make adjustments," Brouwer said. "We'll be working on specifics in the next few months."

Most road projects are paid for with federal dollars and with money allocated by the Legislature to specific projects, so it can't be used for anything else without a legislative change.

However, the reduction in overall funding could impact some of ODOT's projects.

Facing a long-term budget shortfall that has been made worse by COVID-19 and the economic downturn, the department established a Budget Task Force earlier this year.

The group has been working through ideas for reducing costs, adjusting programs and more.

This week, ODOT will be sharing these initial ideas with the Oregon Transportation Commission during its virtual meeting as well as discussing next steps to address the budget situation.

# Oregon Health Plan receives upgrade to online application system

The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority recently upgraded the eligibility system Oregonians use to apply for health coverage.

The upgrade is the first milestone in a larger project to make it easier for Oregonians to apply for health and human services benefits.

The online application was unavailable from July 2-5 while the upgrade was in progress.

Online applications that were not submitted by 4 p.m. on July 2 were not able to be transferred to the new system during the upgrade and will have to be restarted.

For Oregonians applying for Oregon Health Plan benefits online, applications can now be completed on the new system. Paper applications and applications completed over the phone are not impacted.

Oregonians can contact customer service at 1-800-699-9075 (TTY 711) to apply over the phone or request that an application be mailed to them. They can also download, print and mail a paper application. Both options are available in multiple languages.

The Oregon ONE system will continue to be upgraded, in phases, through February 2021. Once the system is fully updated, all Oregonians will be able to use a single online application to apply for cash, child-care, food and medical benefits.

They will also have the option to apply for any of these programs over the phone or in person at any local Aging and People with Disabilities, Area Agency on Aging or Self-Sufficiency Programs office that provides those benefits.

"This upgrade is just the first step in improving the way the state delivers health and human services benefits to Oregonians and their families," said DHS Director Fariborz Pakseresht.

Visit the DHS Benefits and Assistance page to learn more about the programs available to qualifying Oregonians.

# Submission phase begins for State Farm \$25k 'Neighborhood Assistance' relief-grant

Matt Bjornn, agent for State Farm, recently announced that State Farm "Neighborhood Assist" is back for its ninth year in 2020.

This year, \$25,000 in grants is being offered at a time when nonprofits and the communities they serve need it most.

Due to the many challenges facing the nation, State Farm is removing all category requirements for submissions this year. This action will free up communities to submit causes to address their greatest needs.

The program will continue to award \$25,000 grants to 40 nonprofit organizations to help fund neighborhood improvement projects. According to a recent State Farm research study, one-quarter of respondents say that they are "extremely" or "very" involved in trying to improve their neighborhood and 6-in-10 are trying to improve their neighborhood in some capacity.

Here's how the program works:

- Submission Phase: Started July 15 and ends when 2,000 submissions are reached. Individuals can submit a cause at [www.neighborhoodassist.com](http://www.neighborhoodassist.com) starting July 15.
- Prepare now by going to the website and downloading the submission guide. Once 2,000 submissions have been received, the State Farm Review Committee will then narrow the field to the Top 200 finalists using a scoring rubric.
- Voting Phase: Sept. 23 through Oct. 2. Ultimately, voters will decide which community improvement projects will receive grants.

The public will have a chance to vote 10 times a day, every day, for 10 days between Sept. 23 and Oct. 2 from the list of finalists.

Voting can be done online at [www.neighborhoodassist.com](http://www.neighborhoodassist.com).

- Winners announced: Winners will be announced Nov. 4 at [www.neighborhoodassist.com](http://www.neighborhoodassist.com), with the 40 causes that receive the most votes each win a \$25,000 grant.

"Grant programs that address community needs like Neighborhood Assist are more important than ever," said Bjornn. "This initiative truly embodies the spirit of being a Good Neighbor."

Last year, 163,000 people cast 4.4 million votes in support of their favorite causes, selecting winners from small towns and big cities.

Since the program began, State Farm has awarded \$8 million in support of more than 300 causes.

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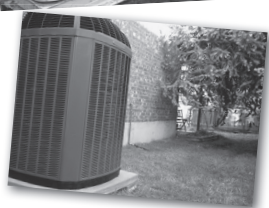
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