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## **Department of Transportation timeline**

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- PHOTOGRAPHS, AERIAL

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# **Chronology of Events**

## 1900-1925

1905	First vehicle registration law is enacted by the Legislative Assembly. A one-time fee of \$3 was charged, the certificate was issued by the secretary of state, and the revenue collected was placed in the General Fund and dedicated to road building.
1911	Annual vehicle license renewal begins. Chauffeur registration law becomes effective.
1912	Applications for license plates were required to be notarized until 1915.
1913	State Highway Department is created by the Legislative Assembly. Oregon Highway Commission is created and is composed of the governor, secretary of state, and treasurer.
1914	First State Highway Plan is approved by the state highway commission.
1917	The Legislative Assembly shifts road building from counties to the state. It redesigns the makeup of the commission; replacing public officials with voluntary and appointed citizens.
1919	Oregon enacts the nation's first gasoline tax. A materials lab for testing pavement samples is established in Salem.
1921	The Legislative Assembly authorizes the Highway Commission to acquire sites for development of a state park system. State Highway Department takes over maintenance on all newly completed sections of highways from counties.
1922	Highway Department establishes a Maintenance Division.
1925	A vehicle titling law is enacted. The Legislative Assembly approves a bill that allows state to purchase park sites beyond 300 feet of the roadway (the genesis of the State Parks system). The State Highway Commission is authorized to establish and maintain ferries.

## 1926-1950

1926	Registration records are housed in the Rogers Building on High and Ferry Street in Salem.
1928	Registration records are kept in the old Department of Agriculture Building, Salem.
1930	Registration records are housed in the State Office Building in Salem.
1931	The State Tunnel Commission is created which authorizes construction of tunnels connecting highways.
1932	The Right of Way Section is created within the Highway Department.
1934	The Highway Department's Landscaping Unit is established.
1935	The Travel Information Bureau is established within the Highway Department. The Highway Commission authorizes installation of a radio communication system for joint use with the State Police.
1938	Registration records are housed in new State Capitol Building.
1939	The Oregon Highway Code is enacted by the Legislative Assembly. It provides for an assistant highway engineer; chief counsel authority over the Right of Way Unit; additional powers in acquiring real property; and authority to designate, construct and maintain state highway routes through cities.
1941	Weighmaster section is formed in the Highway Department. Motor Vehicle Accident Fund is created (providing a percentage of license fees for hospitalization of indigent accident victims). There are 2300 employees in the Highway Department.
1942	The Oregon Constitution is amended to establish the Highway Trust Fund and dedicated road user fees to Highway Department activities.
1943	There are 1600 Highway Department employees (a reduction of 26% from 1941).
1946	New license plates are issued for the first time since 1941.
1947	Construction of the Highway Building is authorized by the Legislative Assembly.

## 1951-1975

1951	Employees move into new Highway Building.
1953	Legislative interim committee starts to study the transfer of the Motor Vehicle Department to the jurisdiction of the governor (from the secretary of state), with the results to be reported to the 1955 Legislative Assembly. A billboard control law is enacted with Bureau of Labor handling administrative duties (see 1963).
1956	The Department of Motor Vehicles is established as a separate branch of government. Primary duties included motor vehicle registration, driver licensing, and collection of gas taxes. The department is housed in the Capitol Building, Public Service Building, and the State Office Building.
1957	Student Driver Education Fund is established.
1959	Oregon Tunnel Commission is abolished. The Department of Motor Vehicles headquarters moves from Capitol Mall area to Lana Avenue in Northeast Salem. Responsibility for inspection of school buses is transferred to State Department of Education.
1961	First bill establishing the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is introduced in the Legislative Assembly but fails to gain enough support.
1963	Administration of billboard control is transferred from Bureau of Labor to the State Highway Commission.
1965	Motorcycle endorsement program is initiated. Implied consent law is passed by the Legislative Assembly.
1967	Driver's license records are converted from manual to computer files. The Oregon "Beach Bill" passes the Legislative Assembly, making most of Oregon's Pacific Ocean beach a public trust. Enforcement power is given to the State Highway Commission.
1968	The Traffic Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles is abolished and staff is transferred to the Governor's Traffic Safety Commission. A Public Information Office is created under the Department of Motor Vehicles.

- The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is created. The Department of Motor Vehicles, State Highway Department, Parks (part of Highway), State Board of Aeronautics, State Ports Commission and the newly created Mass Transit becomes part of ODOT. Administrators is to be appointed by the director of ODOT, who is charged with planning and research, but has no direct control of the agencies or their personnel.
- 1971 The Environmental Unit is formed within the Highway Division to prepare environmental impact statements for projects using federal funds.
- Driver improvement program is formally established by statute. The State Highway Commission becomes the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC), increasing the number of members from three to five, with the Highway Commission chairman becoming the OTC chairman. The Director of ODOT assumes direct control over ODOT divisions and their personnel.
- The Ports Division is transferred from ODOT to the Department of Economic Development.

# 1976-present

1976	The first issue of the ODOT newsletter "VIA" is published. ODOT, in cooperation with the State Police, establishes recorded phone messages concerning current road conditions.
1977	The Motor Vehicles Division (MVD) forms the Dealer Investigation Unit. Flex hours start for ODOT employees.
1979	Dealer Advisory Committee and grounds for dealer suspension are established by law. State Parks is removed from the Highway Division and becomes a division of ODOT.
1980	State Parks and State Police expenditures are removed from the Highway Fund, narrowing the uses to which road user revenues may be spent. Underwater bridge inspection team is formed within the Highway Division.
1981	MVD's computer operation moves to the Department of Revenue building on the Capitol Mall. MVD becomes remote user for first time since its conversion to electronic data processing (see 1967). Motorcycle safety education program is established.
1982	MVD selects the Paradyne company as vendor for their computer system. Rideshare program starts out as a one-year pilot project.
1984	The "Home Purchase Plan" is established as a two-year pilot project to encourage transfers of management or executive service employees.
1985	Motor vehicle laws are recodified and the first Oregon Vehicle Code is created. Motor Vehicle Accident Fund is transferred to the Department of Human Resources. MVD implements DAVE (DMV's Automated Voice Exchange) that allows certain account users to obtain information about vehicle and driver records by telephone without contacting a MVD employee. The Safety and Health Section begins a pilot employee wellness project.
1986	MVD field office computer system is fully operational.
1987	MVD publishes Oregon's first comprehensive Truck/Bus drivers manual. The Legislative Assembly passes a law requiring a contest for the design of a new graphic license plate.

1990 The duties, functions, and powers of ODOT related to parks and recreation are assumed by the newly created Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OL 1989, c. 904). 1991 The photo driver license law is amended to allow MVD to take and file negatives of driver licenses for use by police agencies. 1992 The Oregon Transportation Commission approves restructuring of six divisions into a single agency. The Oregon Traffic Safety Commission becomes part of ODOT. DMV headquarters expansion and remodeling starts. The last issues of the ODOT newsletter (VIA) and DMV newsletter "Behind the Wheel" are published. 1993 The Legislative Assembly approves the restructuring of ODOT (OL 1993, c. 741). The first issue of the combined publication "Transcript" is produced and distributed to ODOT employees. 1995 The duties, functions, and powers of the Public Utilities Commission related to motor carriers and railroads are transferred to ODOT (OL 1995, c. 733).