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# Oregon Department of Transportation Records Scope and Content

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By Gary D. Halvorson, 2008

The records of the Department of Transportation consist of textual and non-textual records.

The textual records consist of the following types: minutes, inspections, ledgers, surveys, correspondence, registrations, biennial reports, diaries, registers, project records, clippings, studies, publications, surveying records (quadrangle, leveling, logs), speeches, grant reviews, indices, and meeting records.

Non-textual items include: drawings, maps (highway, city, city plat, vicinity, bridge, street surface, coastal highway, market road), photographs (incl. aerial), negatives, license plate design artwork, architectural plans, oral history, informational film.

The records of the Department Transportation currently held by the Archives cover dates from ca. 1846 to 1991 but the bulk of the material falls between the 1910s and the 1980s with a high concentration of material from the mid-1930s through the 1940s.

A core function of the Department of Transportation (that related to road work) is documented in several series including County Correspondence, Contract Progress and Payment Records and Road Survey Logs. Expenditures over six decades for highways and related property are documented in a 28 volume series Continuing Expenditures Records. The agency records also contain a collection of clippings related to ODOT's activities as portrayed in the news spanning from 1916-1919 to 1932-1950.

Maps account for over 25% of the agency's records currently in our holdings. Significant map series' are those of Market Roads, City & Vicinity, and Street Surfaces. Some map records are available only in microfilm.

Maps, photographs and drawings constitute the bulk of the non-textual records. Of note is the series of photographs and negatives created by the Travel Information Division used to promote tourism and travel in Oregon (a small selection of these are viewable in an online exhibit). Maps account for over twenty-five percent of the agency's records currently in our holdings. Significant map series' are those of Market Roads, City & Vicinity, and Street Surfaces. Some map records are available only in microfilm.