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## WE ARE OKLAHOMANS FOR RESPONSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

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1. Organization Name: Oklahomans for Responsible Transportation (ORT) Foundation
2. Mission: ORT aims to hold Oklahoma government agencies accountable by engaging the public in responsible transportation education and infrastructure planning processes. ORT ensures due process and encourages appropriate engineering and environmental standards when implementing resilient and sustainable infrastructure solutions. As a nonprofit organization, we work alongside government agencies, providing expertise and advocating for community interests to shape transportation policies and projects that are inclusive, accountable, and that benefit all Oklahomans.
3. About: ORT, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, protects property rights and prevents government overreach through transparency in community placemaking. ORT advocates for community-based planning and financed infrastructure implementation that preserves land, water, and wildlife for future generations. ORT's focus is on prioritizing people over cars, safety over speed, and empathy over expansion, all for the betterment of our community. ORT is dedicated to gathering community members who are united in demanding that infrastructure provided by the state or its entities be accessible and user-friendly to all community members, regardless of vehicle status or disability, thereby ensuring safety and security. ORT has worked with Oklahoma House Representatives and State Senators to enact legislation prioritizing citizens over special interests and fostering a spirit of transparency and accountability. Following the unprecedented amount of funding that the Biden Infrastructure Law has infused into the federal highway expansion, ORT encourages community members to be aware of the impacts of large projects on land, waterways, air, and human beings. Oklahoma has been through different waves of transportation policies, beginning with horseback, street cars, and railroads. Then, somewhere along the way, policy shapers took the narrow-sighted view that cars are the only means necessary to get people where they need to be. ORT provides insight and research into ways that may better serve the entire community, not just the people with the abilities and capacity to own personal vehicles, and educates citizens about how the state ended up this way in the first place by critically examining Oklahoma's history. While still in its infancy, the organization is committed to growing to effectuate better policies that are more inclusive and sustainable, reflecting a shared responsibility to protect the citizens of today and their children tomorrow.
4. Website: [www.ortfoundation.org](http://www.ortfoundation.org)
5. Physical Address: 906 80th Ave Se, Norman, OK, 73026, USA

6. Mailing Address: PO Box 2091, Noble, OK 73068
7. Primary Phone Number: 405-215-9474
8. EIN: 93-3126601
9. Executive Director/President: Dr. Amy Cerato
10. Financial position will be included with the budget as a separate attachment.
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13. Primary Contact Phone Number: 405-550-5879
14. Project Name: Open Dossier of Oklahoma Open Records (DOOR)
15. Project Summary: To ensure public participation in infrastructure and community planning in Oklahoma, ORT and its partners aim to facilitate the legislature in creating an amendment to the Open Records Act that creates an online reading room of all Open Records Requests that have been fulfilled. This initiative, known as the Open DOOR initiative, is similar to what has been done by the U.S. Department of State and the Defense Intelligence Agency through the 1996 amendments to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which mandated publicly accessible online reading rooms, now available via monthly updates since September 1, 2022, at <http://foia.state.gov>. By opening the DOOR for the citizens of Oklahoma to Open Records, the goal is to encourage engagement, inclusivity, transparency, and accountability. The government's procedures and decisions that affect local communities and impact people's lives should be open and transparent rather than conducted behind closed doors for private benefit and inurement.
16. Community Access: Opening the DOOR on public agency data can significantly foster accessibility and transparency for Oklahomans in several ways:
  - Increased Accountability- By making data provided by public agencies via Open Records Requests available in online reading rooms, the citizens will have better opportunities to hold the government accountable for actions, expenditures, and decisions. This level of transparency would discourage corruption and promote responsible governance.
  - Informed Decision Making- Access to comprehensive data would allow individuals, businesses, researchers, and nonprofits to make informed decisions, fostering the importance of evidence-based conclusions.

- Empowerment of Citizens—The Open DOOR initiative empowers citizens by providing them with tools to promote or resist policies impacting their lives and communities. This level of engagement fosters a sense of ownership and influence, making the citizens feel more involved in the decision-making process.
- Promotion of Innovation- Accessible data fuels innovation by providing people with the tools to improve public services, enhance efficiency, and spur economic growth.
- Transparency in Public Spending—The Open DOOR initiative ensures transparency in spending public dollars. By providing open data on spending patterns, this initiative would help expose potential corruption and ensure that accountable stewards are holding the public purse. This emphasis on transparency reassures inclusivity.
- Support for Research and Education- Researchers could use Open DOOR data at all academic levels to expand shared knowledge.
- Improved Service- Access to data allows stakeholders to assess performance, identify areas for improvement, and advocate for better implementation processes.
- Equity and Inclusion: The Open DOOR initiative data would ensure all community members can access the same information, reducing inequalities.

17. Number of Beneficiaries: The Open DOOR initiative has the potential to benefit virtually all Oklahomans and anyone interested in researching the state. By opening the DOOR on the doings of Oklahoma government officials, ORT hopes to provide accessible data that facilitates collaboration between government agencies, citizens, and community organizations. This inclusivity ensures all stakeholders access the same information, supporting legal and civil rights.

18. Project Start Date: 10/01/2025

19. Project End Date: This would be an ongoing project.

20. Total Project Budget: This project would require an ongoing endowment.

21. Amount Requested: To get things started, ORT requests an initial investment of \$100,000, with hopes for future government funding through an ongoing endowment to continue the mission of moving the state forward responsibly, inclusively, and ethically.

22. Cities/Counties Served: This project will impact every city in Oklahoma and all 77 counties. It will also foster openness and transparency with individuals outside of Oklahoma looking to research our state's entities and agencies.

23. New, Continuing, or Expanding Project: Requested funds will be used for a new project.

24. Opportunity Statement: Oklahoma's Open Records Act, 51 O.S. § 24A et seq., is a series of laws designed to guarantee that the public has access to the records of government bodies in Oklahoma. Amending this law to require publicly accessible reading rooms would align with the spirit of the law. Experience shows that public bodies are often slow and arduous in fulfilling Open Record Requests. The advent of investigative journalism, mainly performed by nonprofits such as ProPublica or Oklahoma Watch, demonstrates a growing information access gap. By creating accessible online reading rooms with all Open Records Requests that have already been fulfilled, investigative journalists and public members may have a more efficient means of being informed. This would make it more difficult for corrupt actors to hide behind governmental bodies for their self-gain and empower the public with access to Open Records.
25. Project Goal: The project's main goal is to provide the public access to Open Records and ensure that governmental bodies are beholden to the public rather than special interests and corporate cronyism.
26. Project Activities and Timeline: After legislation is passed to amend the Open Records Acts, a website developer with the skills to create the dossier will be selected. This could be accomplished through a private contractor or in conjunction with a state agency or office holder, such as the Attorney General's Office. Rather than seeking to gather old records, the database would act on a moving forward basis, meaning any records that government bodies fulfill from the beginning of the project to in perpetuity will be made public in a searchable, user-friendly online reading room.
27. Project Rationale: The federal government has already implemented a similar program. Oklahoma will be better served by allowing the public to access Open Records in a streamlined, simple online process.
28. Experience: ORT has requested many Open Record Requests and plans to develop a place on the foundation's website where people can easily find the information that ORT has received.
29. Project Budget: The financial position and current budget are attached separately.
30. Budget Narrative: Websites are not that expensive to maintain; however, whether a person should be employed to ensure all records are uploaded and made public may require further investigation and funding. This may be achievable by working with the Attorney General's office, where a position has already been formed to oversee Open Records Requests, currently held by Trebor Worthen.
31. Resources: ORT will turn over all open records received to initiate the database creation.

32. Community Outreach and Engagement: ORT will use the existing media relationships, community leaders, website, newsletter, and social media platforms to encourage other actors to support the database.
33. Project Partners and Collaboration: ORT will partner with government bodies that claim to be transparent and accountable, such as the Attorney General's Office, the State Auditor, and the Ethics Commission, as well as any other governmental bodies or nonprofit groups working to promote a secure and honest future for Oklahomans.
34. Potential Challenges and Obstacles: Oklahoma's Good Old Boy system of government will not support transparency. Governmental leaders must be encouraged to work with one another and foster a level of honesty and integrity that has not been achieved so far.
35. Outcomes: Oklahoma can govern at a higher level of efficiency with more continuity and more productive outputs, attracting better businesses, better schools, better leaders, and all-around better citizens who participate in government processes at a higher level.
36. Community Impact: This project would promote integrity and honesty and reinstate the ideas of community integration, promoting more sustainable and fair governance.
37. Monitoring & Evaluation: The Attorney General's Office, which has already shown a higher level of promotion for Open Records Requests than its predecessors, should monitor and enforce this Open DOOR policy, much like it monitors successions and mergers of nonprofits.
38. Sustainability: Good governance practices, like honesty and integrity, are accomplished through the cooperation of stakeholders. For example, the state can provide essential services for the public, such as responsible transportation infrastructure. By bringing government functions into the sunlight, where it is more difficult for corrupt actors to engage in self-dealing, the state will create a more inclusive, holistic, and sustainable environment for all Oklahoma citizens, not just those benefiting behind closed doors.