

BUILD BACK BETTER WITH MASS TIMBER

“An initiative for the new economy.”
By the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EQUITY



IN RESPONSE TO:

FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act
Build Back Better Regional Challenge
Department of Commerce

- Cooperative Agreement Grant
- Up to \$500,000 Phase I
- Up to \$100,000,000 Phase II
- Phase 1 deadline: October 19, 2021
- Phase 2 deadline: March 15, 2022



VISION

To support Oregon's established mass timber industry ecosystem and grow a regional cluster as it scales up innovative economic development projects that lead to economic recovery and address commonly shared challenges of low wages, inequality, and disparities of benefit.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

To expand Oregon's traded-sector market for the use of a new and transformative category of wood products, mass timber, to revolutionize how America builds affordable homes that meet a range of needs.

The Coalition's *Build Back Better with Mass Timber* initiative and EDA application implements strategies for 5 to 8 construction and/or non-construction projects that include the following priorities:

- **Manufacturing Infrastructure & Training Center.** Supports investment in prefabricated mass timber panel construction and volumetric housing manufacturing; training facility for production- and construction- skilled workforce, entrepreneurial and small business supply chain support, and business incubation. *Port of Portland*
 - Kenneth.Anderton@portofportland.com
- **Research and Development.** Support public/private decision-making through world class testing facilities, extensive research, and prototype development. *TallWood Design Institute*
 - jesheine@uoregon.edu; lain.macdonald@oregonstate.edu
- **Workforce.** Support community outreach with emphasis on job pathways for underserved communities. *Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development*
 - Leigh.MCILVAINE@dlcd.oregon.gov
- **Healthy Forests.** Restoration, sustainable fiber supply, and low value species utilization. *Oregon Department of Forestry*
 - Marcus.KAUFFMAN@oregon.gov

General Inquiries

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October 12, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Regarding Applicant:	The Port of Portland, Oregon
In Cooperation With:	The Oregon Mass Timber Coalition
Initiative Name:	Build Back Better with Mass Timber
Funding Opportunity No.:	EDA-HDQ-ARPBBS-2021-2006976
Funding Opportunity Title:	FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge, Department of Commerce

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

Clackamas County supports the Port of Portland's application to the U.S. Department of Commerce for the 2021 Build Back Better Regional Challenge and the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition's initiative to expand Oregon's traded-sector market that can revolutionize how the region and America builds affordable homes. A suite of fully aligned projects will help lead to economic recovery and address commonly shared challenges of low wages, inequality, and disparities of benefit.

The Port of Portland leads the Coalition and partners, a proven and effective alliance of government agencies, educational institutions, research facilities, and partners including business leaders, workforce, labor, and economic development organizations. Many have been engaged within the mass timber ecosystem for several years, and participated in founding the region's 2015 EDA designated IMCP Manufacturing Community.

Numerous agreements and investments have been made over the years to accelerate the industry to this point. The Coalition's initiative will implement related projects that connect the forest to the final product:

- **Manufacturing Infrastructure & Training Center Campus.** Supports investment in prefabricated mass timber panel construction and volumetric housing manufacturing; training facility for advanced manufacturing and specialty construction workforce, entrepreneurial and small business supply chain support, and business incubation.
- **Research and Development.** Support public/private decision-making through world class testing facilities, extensive research, and prototype development.
- **Workforce.** Support community outreach with emphasis on job pathways for underserved communities.
- **Healthy Forests.** Restoration, sustainable fiber supply, and low value species utilization.

Clackamas County continues to support growth in Oregon's mass timber design and manufacturing industries by encouraging investment and advances in timber technology. Our economic development team has created a Comprehensive Mass Timber Strategy and is committed to maximizing opportunities for businesses to find market success.

Our organization supports the Port of Portland's application as it scales up the Build Back Better with Mass Timber initiative.

Sincerely,

Tootie Smith

Chair, Clackamas County Board of Commissioners