
CHAPTER 3

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The RVMPO has an adopted Public Participation Plan, last updated in 2014, which remains consistent with the planning requirements of the 2015 transportation act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

Public participation activities are conducted according to standards and requirements of the RVMPO Public Participation Plan. The participation plan establishes a goal of the RVMPO to provide citizens and interested parties with reasonable opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning process. Beyond efforts to provide information to the public, this goal encompasses a wide range of strategies and activities to enable the public to be involved in a meaningful way in the RVMPO's decision-making process. Ultimately, efforts to bring more voices and wide-ranging interests to the table will yield better planning results.

3.1 RTP PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RTP UPDATE

The public participation process for this plan update began in 2015 with staff attending a number of community events throughout the Rogue Valley to solicit public input on transportation planning topics for the region. Additionally, in early 2016, public meetings occurred by way of the scheduled technical and public advisory committee and policy committee meetings for review and updates to the RTP goals and policies, and development of performance indicators. The public outreach and participation process continued through the development of project lists, which are based on planning at the jurisdiction level. A public hearing on the draft RTP was conducted by the Policy Committee in early 2017. All materials, including drafts and staff memos, are posted on the RVMPO website. A formal, advertised 30-day public comment period began prior to the Policy Committee public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE RTP

This section presents a summary of public comments received throughout the plan update process. It is important to note that this does not include comments and recommendations from the RVMPO Public Advisory Council (PAC), an appointed group who are vital part of the MPO's public participation process. The PAC participated in the plan update process by making comments and recommendations on RTP material to the Policy Committee. Their meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the RVMPO website. For purposes of this RTP chapter, this section summarizes input from the public, other than the PAC.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2, summarize responses to questions contained in the public survey that was conducted in conjunction with the RTP update.

Table 3.1.1: Summary of Survey Responses, Question #7

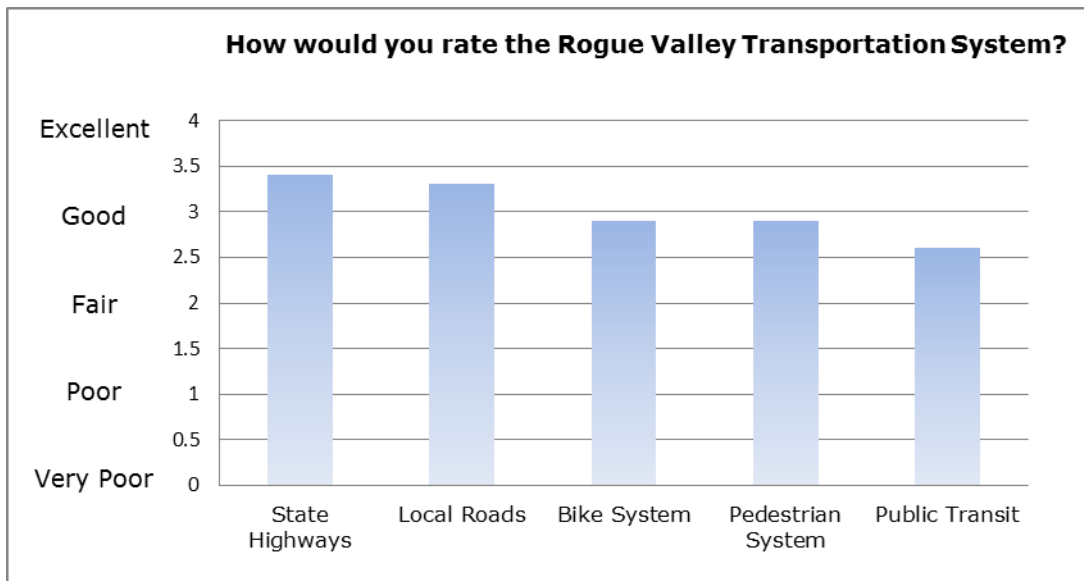


Table 3.1.2: Summary of Survey Responses, Question #8

Rank	What do you think are the most important changes the region must make over the next 20-years to improve how all Rogue Valley residents get around?
1	Improve public transit
2	Increase number of bike paths and bike lanes
3	Repair/maintain sidewalks and pedestrian walkways
4	Ensure that transportation system supports needs of local economy
5	Reduce the negative impact that transportation has on environment
6	Improve traffic safety
7	Increase recreational facilities/trails
8	Reduce traffic congestion on streets/roads
9	Improve local roadway and highway conditions
10	Improve goods movement/commercial traffic
11	Increase rideshare/carpooling opportunities
12	Reduce high vehicle speeds in communities

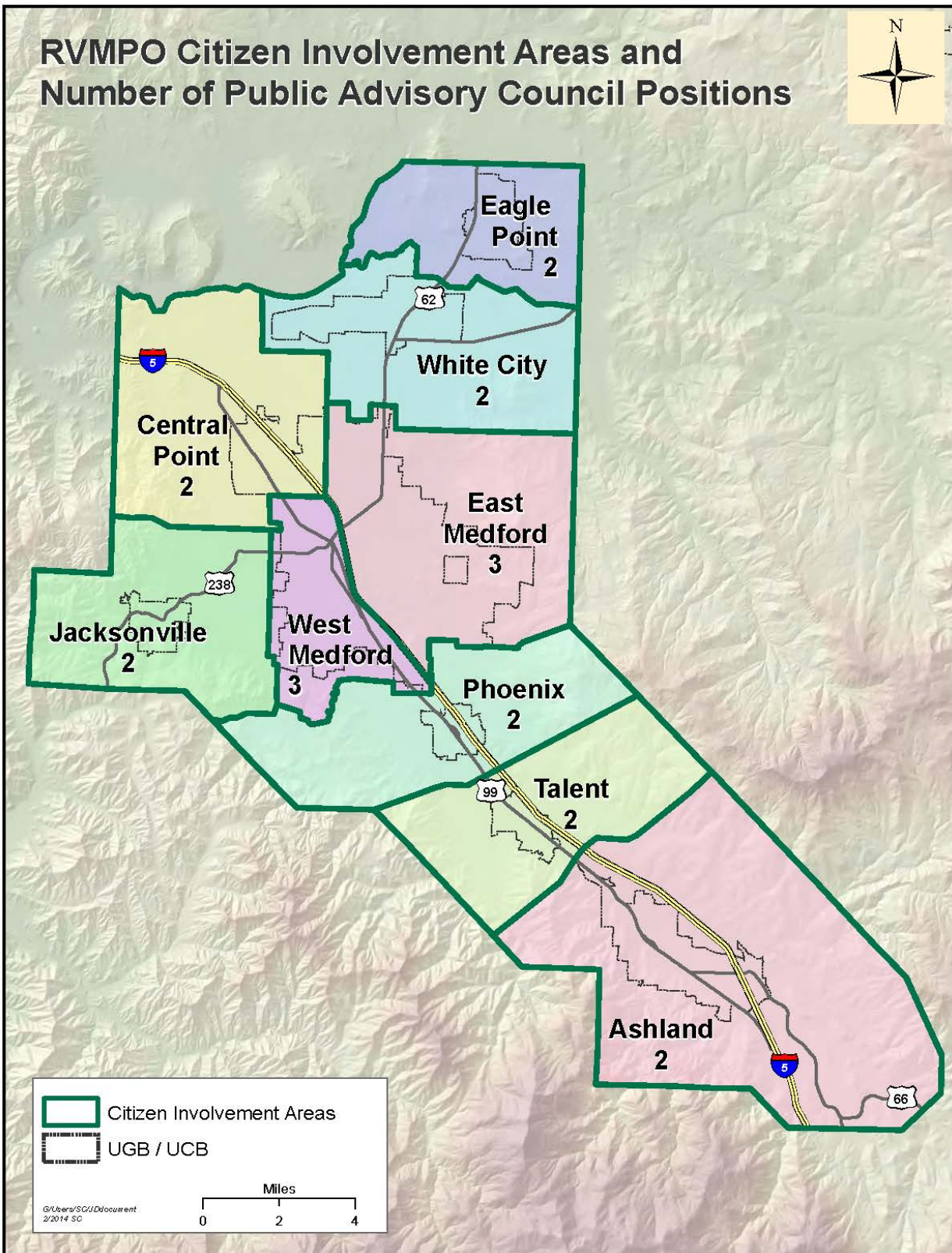
The survey also included two write-in response questions: *What do you see as significant transportation issues in the Rogue Valley region?*, and *If you could fix one transportation problem in the Rogue Valley region, what would it be?* The top response was in regards to improving the public transit system, followed by improving the bike and pedestrian system, and the third most commonly stated response was in regards to congestion issues and lack of alternate routes – specifically, Hwy 62 and the I-5 Viaduct.

Generally, the RTP goals that the public has said are most important are:

- ***Goal 5: Identify, plan and develop transportation infrastructure which maximizes the efficient use for all users and modes.*** This indicates a desire for transportation planning efforts that focus on existing/future facilities and begin a focus on multi-modal transport.
- ***Goal 6: Identify, develop and support diverse strategies to lessen dependence upon single-occupant vehicles.*** This indicates support for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) techniques and public transportation to provide alternatives.

The results of the survey were presented to all MPO committees – the Technical Advisory Committee, the Public Advisory Council, and the Policy Committee.

Map 3.1.1: Public Advisory Council, Citizen Involvement Areas



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