

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
ROGUE VALLEY MPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2014**



The following attended:

NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE
<u>MPO Policy Committee</u>		
Al Densmore	City of Medford	282-1415
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Bill Cecil	Talent	535-1566
John Vial Don Skundrick	Jackson County	774-6118
Bruce Sophie	City of Phoenix	535-1634
Jim Lewis	City of Jacksonville	899-7023
Rich Rosenthal	City of Ashland	941-1494
Ruth Jenks	City of Eagle Point	941-8537

Staff

Dan Moore	RVCOG	423-1361
Andrea Napoli	RVCOG	423-1369
Jonathan David	RVCOG	
Bunny Lincoln	RVCOG	944-2446

Others Present

13 members of the public were present.

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**1. Call to Order / Introductions/ Review Agenda -**

Vice Chairman Al Densmore called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Committee began with introductions. Jonathan David was introduced as the new RVCOG Program Planning Manager, and Bunny Lincoln as the new Contract Recorder for both the Rogue Valley and Middle Rogue MPOs.

**2. Review / Approve Minutes -**

Vice Chairman Densmore asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January meeting minutes.

**On a motion by Jim Lewis and seconded by Rich Rosenthal the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.**

**3. Public Comment -**

None.

### *Action Items:*

#### **4. Elections – Chair & Vice Chair**

**On a motion by Jim Lewis and seconded by Ruth Jenks, the Committee unanimously elected Mike Quilty, Chairman for the coming year. On a motion John Vial and seconded by Bruce Sophie, the Committee unanimously elected Al Densmore, Vice Chairman.**

#### **5. Proposed MPO Dues/Review Draft work Plan 2014-15 -**

Jonathan David presented an overview of the dues for the year, stipulating that they followed the same formula previously approved by the Committee.

**On a motion by Ruth Jenks and seconded by Bruce Sophie, the Committee unanimously approved the dues.**

Mr. David also shared that the TAC had approved the Draft Work Plan, and that it would come back to the Policy Committee after federal and State reviews are completed.

#### **6. Discretionary Funding Application Review - 2016, 2017 & 2018**

Prior to the project presentations, members discussed possible future monetary carryovers.

A projects spreadsheet was presented to the Committee outlining the thirteen (13) submitted applications:

- Paige Townsend spoke about the **RVTD Valley Feeder Program** and **Clean Fuel Fleet** project. The Feeder Program would allow the general public to utilize vacant seats on the existing Valley Lift program. Potential program mechanics, reservations, scheduling and fares were reviewed. The Clean Fuel Fleet project will replace six (6) outdated vehicles with more fuel efficient models. Four (4) would be NG, two (2) dual fuel for longer trips.
- Mike Faught presented Ashland's **Chip Seal** and **E. Nevada Extension** details. The chip seal (double) project will cover approximately five (5) miles of local gravel roads, thereby reducing adverse air quality effects. Design standards, with the need for an appropriate base, were briefly discussed. **NOTE:** Mention was made of a recent email submitted by Craig Anderson, JACO Planner and Ashland Transportation Commissioner. The email was critical of the proposed E. Nevada St. extension. Both Ashland and JACO stipulated that Mr. Anderson did not speak for their jurisdictions. The E. Nevada St. extension bike/pedestrian component will be an extension of the Bear Creek Greenway. The extension includes construction of a bridge, creating the higher cost (approx. \$5 million). Potential street design standards were presented. The project is also an important future transit route (part of Ashland's TSP), and a traffic bypass, not just a local benefit, that will alleviate traffic impacts on other City rights of way. Combined funding sources, including SDCs and local match, were briefly discussed.
- Central Point's **Beebe-Hamrick roundabout** specifics were presented by Tom Humphrey. He discussed the current, heavy traffic patterns in the area, including LOS impacts, and that it is now becoming more of a neighborhood environment with existing residential development, parks, transportation improvements, bike/ped. facilities, etc, as well as the creation of a TOD in the east side of Interstate 5. Roundabout advantages

(over a signalized intersection) were outlined, and it is the City Council's preferred alternative because of the expected development in the area. JACO and ODOT are involved in an analysis of potential traffic and freight impacts to adjoining rights of way as heavier traffic is shifted away from the Hamrick-Beebe location.

- Rob Miller went over Eagle Point's **East Main-Stevens Road** improvement plan focusing on area topography, dense residential development (present and future), serious bike/ped. deficiencies as they relate to the nearby locations of Hillside Elementary School, downtown, other local schools. He outlined available traffic counts and right of way conditions and proposed improvement design standards. Finally, he broke down a possible phasing scenario should requested funding not be available in this funding cycle.
- **Jackson County – Table Rock (Lone Pine to Biddle Road).** Mike Kuntz spoke of the multiple (1/3) jurisdictional project involvement (JACO, Medford, Central Point), current right of way deficiencies as related to the extremely heavy traffic impacts (21% trucks), and presented the project locational logistics, funding options, design standards, including bike/ped. facilities and a traffic signal at Airport Road.
- **Jackson County – Regional Active Transportation Plan .** Mike Kuntz went over the need for a regional plan, covering specifics of the Plan's vision to identify key destinations and origination points, current barriers, new routes, establishing a connecting network of pathways, and, most importantly, prioritizing a set of alternative mode improvement projects. The analysis would include individual area communities and regional, off Greenway connections to outlying jurisdictions. Funding sources, including some committed match participants, were briefly discussed. John Vial stated that this plan would eventually become the Bike/Ped. component of the RTP.
- Alex Georgevitch presented the four (4) Medford projects:
  - Barnett Road Adaptive Signal Timing** - on a regional basis, adaptive timing is anticipated to improve air quality and traffic through one of the most impacted areas in Medford (caused by the significant increase in medical facilities surrounding Barnett Road). Improved traffic flows would be a benefit to Medford. Transit is not expected to be negatively impacted.
  - Columbus Avenue Extension** - will connect to existing Sage Road upgrades and improve traffic flows in the area. Other, recent, development driven, ROW improvements have created a scenario where this project will fill in lacking spaces. Bike/Ped. connectivity to adjoining commercial/industrial employment centers will also be improved
  - Springbrook-Cedar Links Roundabout** - a high scoring (priority need) continuation of recent Springbrook improvement project. Part of the "Safe Routes to School" Program. Viewed as a significant improvement to N/S Medford connectivity, RVTD transit flows and Bike/Ped. route options. Project design standards were also presented.
  - Foothill Road Improvements** – a historic, unacknowledged regionally significant eastside commuter route. Five (5) section, major arterial design standards were presented, noting that the Foothills power stations present a significant challenge. Funding sources, including loan rates, were discussed. Foothill is Medford's highest priority, both for implementation timing and financing. A massive linear amount of sidewalks (currently non-existent) and bike paths are included in the plans. NO goal exceptions are required. Direct access will be allowed on a limited basis.

In response to a Committee question, Mr. Georgevitch stated that the preferred priority ranking for Medford's four (4) projects would be:

1. Foothills
2. Springbrook
3. Columbus
4. Adaptive Timing

Mr. Densmore stressed the extreme importance of Foothills as a regional corridor, and that it is imperative that it be improved in the coming years.

Mike Kuntz shared that the Foothills/Highway 140 corridor connection is the County's next project after the Table Rock Road improvements are completed.

- **RVCOG – Hybrid Vehicle Purchase –** Andrea Napoli explained the dynamics of the Hybrid purchase as related to current Staff use of personal cars for MPO travel, and the proposed 50/50 funding split with the MRMPPO. The TAC and MRMPPO have already recommended approval for this.

**On a motion by John Vail and seconded by Jim Lewis, the Committee unanimously approved pulling the hybrid purchase from the Discretionary Funding Projects List, instead using currently available CMAQ or STP funding, whichever is applicable.**

#### **7. RVMPO Planning Update -**

Jonathan David said that he had been attending a number of statewide MPO funding meetings, where there have been ongoing discussions on how each MPO is handling the oversight required projects. He has also been attending Statewide Transportation meetings.

#### **8. Public Comment**

None received.

#### **9. Other Business / Local Business**

Mr. Sophie suggested the concept of the RVMPO and MRMPPO meeting together occasionally to discuss mutual concerns and opportunities to improve regional transportation.

#### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.