

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
ROGUE VALLEY MPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 1, 2014**



The following attended:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Al Densmore, Vice Chairman	City of Medford	772-1116
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Bill Cecil	City of Talent	535-1566
Bruce Sophie	City of Phoenix	535-1634
John Vail for Don Skundrick	Jackson County	774-6118
Jim Lewis	City of Jacksonville	899-7023
Julie Brown	RVTD	608-2143
Mike Quilty, Chairman	City of Central Point	664-7907
Rich Rosenthal	City of Ashland	941-1494
Ruth Jenks	City of Eagle Point	826-4212
 <u>Staff</u>		
Dan Moore	RVCOG	423-1361
Jonathan David	RVCOG	
Andrea Napoli	RVCOG	423-1369
Bunny Lincoln	RVCOG	944-2446
Mike Cavallero	RVCOG	

Others Present

Mike Faught, Mike Baker, John Vial, Mike Montero

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

Chairman Mike Quilty called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Introductions followed.

**2. Review / Approve Minutes -**

**On a motion by Al Densmore, seconded by Bruce Sophie, the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as presented. Julie Brown abstained.**

**3. Public Comment -**

None.

#### **4. Amendment to Public Advisory Council (PAC) Bylaws**

Jonathan David presented the amendment proposing the addition of a non-jurisdictional Bike-Ped position on the RVMPO Public Advisory Council. The Policy Committee and PAC wanted the representation formulas to remain the same.

**On a motion by Jim Lewis, seconded by Don Skundrick, the amendment was approved. The voice vote was unanimous.**

#### **5. Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funding/LMP**

Jonathan David presented a review of the cost (\$68,000), potential funding sources and consultation quote for the project. ODOT will fund 50% of the cost. \$11,000 in STP funding was returned by ODOT.

**On a motion by Al Densmore, seconded by Bruce Sophie, the Committee proposed \$11,000 STP Funding and \$10,000 from dues.**

It was noted that CMAQ funds cannot be used. Dan Moore stipulated that \$11,000 was left over from the Household Activity Survey.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. MPO Planning Update –**

- **Alternative Measures:** Dan Moore reviewed the measures and the need to show 5% per capita reduction in VMT. Data analysis is now being done, and must be completed by the end of the fiscal year in June, 2015. Analysts were caught off guard with transit mode share not meeting the target. The ODOT model (4.1) for mode shares is being revised.
- **Strategic Assessment:** Jonathan David will continue to work on fitting the SA work into the COG staff schedule.
- **Statewide MPO Funding Issues:** This issue is ongoing, with those involved looking for an equitable solution to securing adequate funding sources for the various MPOs.

#### **7. Public/Audience Comment –**

Mike Montero provided updated information that another CMAQ application has been submitted to the State for maintenance and additional infrastructure for alternative fuel stations. ODOT has reviewed the application, and approved for it to proceed forward through the process. No letter of continued support is required from the MPO.

#### **8. Other Business / Local Business**

Mike Quilty spoke about returned funds (approx. \$2 million), and the reconvening of the Oversight Committee. The Committee must prioritize additional projects. The members briefly discussed details of some of the projects, and the need for keeping the MPO member jurisdictions informed as further decisions are made on the various projects still remaining on the “table”.

Al Densmore announced that this would be his last Policy Committee meeting, and offered his thanks to the members for their support during his tenure. He will continue to advocate for creation of a Regional Transportation project package and addressing an enhanced public

information and education scenario.

OMPOC will have an open seat. Mr. Densmore offered to go to the January meeting.

The membership expressed thanks to Mr. Densmore and Mr. Skundrick for their invaluable service to the Policy Committee.

Art Anderson said that there are funds available for State bridge repairs, and there may be an opportunity to resurface some I-5 structures. ODOT is also working on the 15-18 and 18-21 STIPs.

Julie Brown brought RVTD issues to the Committee's attention:

- The tax levy lost in the last election
- Reserves are now being used to fund the system
- The reserves (\$3.5 million) could be gone in eighteen (18) months if alternatives are not found.
- Service reductions are imminent and the outlook is not good
- The impact on Valley residents, especially low income, will be very significant
- Another, smaller levy is being considered
- Fixed routes may have to be dissolved, with a "dial a ride" service instead
- The public is unaware of these impacts and consequences
- A public education program is essential
- Additional State funds may be forthcoming for elderly and disabled
- The State doesn't fund transit (except for ADA and senior citizens)
- It is imperative to educate the full State legislature, many newly elected, specifically about transit issues, and all aspects of transportation, in general

A brief discussion ensued about the reasons that the levy did not pass, allowed uses for fare box revenues, educating the business and residential communities about what will happen to the economy if the transit system fails and the specific ramifications for RVTD employees and the system's customer base.

Mike Quilty suggested a letter from the RVMPO Policy Committee to the State legislature, outlining the current transit problems, and encouraging them to open a dialog on the overall issue. 50% of local STP dollars are currently given to RVTD by local jurisdictions (approx. \$900,000).

Mike Montero pointed out that the new **Transportation Options Topics Plan** would speak to air quality and the aging of the population, as well as transit deficiencies, thereby creating some good talking points and tools for resolving the ongoing situation.

Julie Brown will draft a data sheet outlining the impacts and possible solutions on behalf of RVTD to accompany the RVMPO Policy Committee letter to the State.

Al Densmore reiterated that consistent, PERSONAL contact with state legislators and others will ultimately be the key to success with transportation and transit issues.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.