

**SUMMARY MINUTES
ROGUE VALLEY MPO POLICY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 25, 2016**



The following attended:

MPO Policy Committee

<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Ian Horlacher for Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Colleen Roberts	Jackson County	646-2878
Bruce Sophie, Vice Chairman	City of Phoenix	535-1216
Rich Rosenthal	City of Ashland	941-1494
Ruth Jenks	City of Eagle Point	941-8537
Mike Zarosinski	City of Medford	
Tonia Moro	RVTD	973-2063

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Dan Moore	RVCOG	423-1361
Bunny Lincoln	RVCOG	944-2446
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338

Others Present -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Alex Georgevitch	City of Medford	774-2114
John Vial	Jackson County	
Mike Montero	Montero & Assoc.	944-4376
Scott Fleury	City of Ashland	
Paige Townsend	RVTD	608-2429

John Vial

Jackson County

Tom Humphrey

City of Central Point

1. Call to Order / Introductions/ Review Agenda –

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The Committee began with introductions.

2. Review / Approve Minutes -

The Vice Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the previous meeting minutes.

On a motion by Rich Rosenthal, seconded by Mike Zarosinski, the minutes the previous meeting were approved as presented.

3. Public Comment -

None.

Public Hearing:

The Vice Chairman read the procedure for the public hearing.

4. 15-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & 2013-2038 Regional Transportation Plan Amendments

Ryan MacLaren explained that the Policy Committee is being asked to consider approval of the following amendments to the 2013-2038 Regional Transportation Plan and 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program. The 21-day public comment period and public hearing were advertised in the Medford Tribune, and information has been available on the RVMPO website since that date. The RVMPO TAC has recommended approval of the amendments

The amendment includes:

A. Amendment to RTP & TIP: I-5: Medford Viaduct Protective Right of Way Purchase

Description: This property is currently bare ground. The owner is preparing to construct a large multi-story apartment building off of Almond Street within very close proximity to the existing bridge structure. It is likely that at a minimum, ODOT will widen the structure to add shoulders, although additional widening could also occur. Even the most minimal widening will require acquisition of this property. Early acquisition is desired so the Department will not have to remove a new building and relocate numerous tenants at a substantially increased cost. The Department has already reached out to the developer and city officials.

Project: 920

AQ Status: Exempt (Table 2, Safety)

FFY: 2015-18

Total = \$1,000,000. Land Purchase. Federal funding, with ODOT match. Non-MPO funding.

The TAC members discussed the fact that the market value is less than the amount being requested. The ODOT process is not uncommon, and past practice has been to buy an entire property, and then sell whatever portion is not used in a particular project. RVTD and the MPO submitted letters of support for the proposed housing development.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

In support: None received
In opposition: None received

The Chair closed the public testimony.

On a motion by John Vial, seconded by Ian Horlacher, the amendment to the RTP & TIP: I-5: Medford Viaduct Protective Right of Way Purchase was unanimously approved by the Policy Committee.

Action Items:

5. Project Evaluation Criteria & Ranking Process for STBG/CMAQ Funds

Based on a previous request from the Committee, Dan Moore explained the project solicitation process for the 2019-2021 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds is currently underway, with December 2 being the deadline for jurisdictions to submit their project applications. Project applications are evaluated and weighted by staff, prior to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) project funding recommendation to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Moore's presentation included:

- The Application
- Cost Estimates (by phase)
- Project Evaluation Criteria Spreadsheet (Goals, RTP Goal, MPO Requirements, Evaluation Criteria)
- Electronic Submittal to RVCOG
- RVCOG Staff begins evaluation
- Project Ranking by Staff (high, medium, & low) - Mobility, Community Vitality, Transportation Options, Resource Conservation CMAQ Qualification

Several, previous projects were shown to demonstrate the scoring/ranking process before they were submitted to the Policy Committee. (TAC members review the Staff scoring and submit their own ranking recommendations, unrelated to the other steps in the process.) There has been no MPO interaction with the OTC at this point. At this point, the reduced CMAQ funding amounts are being used.

Members discussed the TAC process, and the availability of minutes to show how they reached their recommendations on the various projects. The Policy Committee has the final decision.

Regional priorities are also part of the discussion. Although it is understood that the TAC members will advocate for their own projects, “objectivity” is the final goal. Rich Rosenthal shared that he felt the funding allocations were more relevant than the Staff rankings. The resolution of underfunded projects by various jurisdictions was also mentioned.

Additional details of the process shared with the Committee included:

RVMPO Evaluation Measures, Project Funding Criteria Table

The criteria are directly related to national, MPO, and Regional Transportation Plan goals and requirements. In the project application, the applicant provides information for each applicable criteria using the “How Measured” section of the table.

Project Evaluation Scoring Sheet

Utilizing the information provided by the applicant as to how elements of the project support established criteria, staff completes the Project Evaluation Scoring Sheet. This is done by applying a “Low”, “Medium”, “High” score/weight for how well each criteria is fulfilled using both best judgment (subjective) and data driven results. A grey-colored table is provided on the scoring sheet that outlines specific calculations and data to be used for certain criteria. Additionally, for projects seeking CMAQ funding, the blue “CMAQ Qualification” table is completed by staff to determine how well each project may benefit air quality. This is done by using information provided by the applicant and calculations approved by ODOT to determine various benefits such as the projects expected reduction in carbon monoxide per year, for the lifetime of the project, and a cost/benefit ratio (dollar invested per kg reduced).

TAC Recommendation to Policy Committee for Funding Projects

Staff presents the completed evaluation scoring sheet to the TAC, which then does an in-depth review of the results and uses the completed scoring spreadsheet as a tool to inform their project funding recommendation to the Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee felt that the evaluation sheets were important information for their decisions. Ms. Jenks stated that she felt the rankings were also very important. The opinion was that transparency and collaboration are very important aspects of the process, and all information should be available to those involved in making decisions on the proposed projects.

The possible involvement of other organizations (RVACT/OTC) was mentioned.

The Committee

6. RVMPO Planning Update -

- Karl Welzenbach, the new Program Manager, has assumed his new position.
- Staff offered an update on the Advisory Committee on Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Greenhouse Gas. The predominance of discussion to this point has been the deficiencies in the TPR and improving the Metropolitan Planning Requirements. A memo was shared to describe potential improvements to these rules. The main goal is to meet the Greenhouse Gas reduction requirements. The Nov. 4th “go to” meeting will be held at the COG. The Committee will make recommendations to DLCD on potential options:

1. Merge processes
2. Require TSPs to have performance measures

3. Use the Mixed-Use Multimodal Area (MMA) as a community tool
4. Rewrite the TPR

Mr. Moore said he was in favor of Option #2.

Transit options were briefly mentioned. Metro may have its own targets, with smaller jurisdictions having lesser ones. It was again mentioned that the Rogue Valley has its own unique emission problems.

- Staff continues to work on the RTP, modeling, etc.

7. Public Comment

None received.

8. Other Business / Local Business

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings:

RVMPO PAC	Tuesday, Nov. 15th @ 5:50 pm
RVMPO TAC	Wednesday, Nov. 9th @ 1:30 pm
RVMPO Policy	Tuesday, Nov. 22nd @ 2:00 pm