

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
ROGUE VALLEY MPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 26, 2016**



The following attended:  
MPO Policy Committee

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Mike Quilty, Chairman	City of Central Point	608-2413
Colleen Roberts	Jackson County	646-2878
Bruce Sophie, Vice Chairman	City of Phoenix	535-1216
Jim Lewis	City of Jacksonville	899-7023
Michael Zarosinski	City of Medford	937-2063
Rich Rosenthal	City of Ashland	941-1494
Ruth Jenks	City of Eagle Point	941-8537
Michael Zarosinski	City of Medford	
Darby Strickler	City of Talent	
Tonia Moro	RVTD	

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

**Others Present -**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Alex Georgevitch	City of Medford	774-2114
Mike Baker	ODOT	957-3658
Lauren Crane	OHSU Nursing	

Scott Fleury	Ashland	552-2412
Paige Townsend	RVTD	608-2429
Al Densmore	John Watt Assoc.	601-0704
John Vial	Jackson County	

---



---

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

The Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Committee began with introductions.

**2. Review / Approve Minutes -**

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

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

**3. Public Comment -**

None.

***Public Hearing #1:***

**The Chair read the procedure for the public hearing.**

**4. RVMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 2016-17 Resolution 2016-01 and Resolution 2016-02**

Dan Moore presented the (April 19, 2016 memo) UPWP Budget tables #1 and #2 and Self Certification. The UPWP represents ODOT “carry over” funds (2014-15 @ \$128,000) are included in the updated budget:

**Next fiscal year, some of the major work tasks include:**

- **Updating the Public Participation Plan**
- **Soliciting 2019, 2020, & 2021 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) & Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funded projects (STBG is the new name for STP funds)**
- **Developing the 2018-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
- **Developing the AQCD for the RTP & TIP**
- **Continuing work on the Rogue Valley Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan**
- **Begin 2015 Alternative Measures Benchmark Analysis**
- **Updating the Title 6/EJ Plan**

- **#1 - Proposed FY 2017 Budget - Transportation Planning Funds by Source/Activity** (same funding amounts as current FY, but the amount could change, based on upcoming

discussions at the State level) Delineated Work Tasks include:

- **#2 - Proposed Program Activity** - outlining work tasks for program management, short/long range planning, data development/maintenance and transit. The main focus is RTP development. Proposed activities include.
  1. **Program Management** - Continue previous tasks, update website, Update Public Involvement Plan.
  2. **Short Range Planning** - Maintain MTIP, Develop 2018-21 TIP, solicit for CMAQ/STP funded projects, Develop AQCD for RTP/TIP, publish Obligated Projects List FFY2017, Coordinate CO LMP & Air Quality Conformity, MOVES modeling for RTP/TIP, Assist with local planning as warranted.
  3. **Long Range Planning** - Work with ODOT/FHWA MPO performance measures, continue 2017-42 RTP work, Maintain RTP Safety Profile, Commence 2015 Alternative Measures benchmark analysis, continue ITS plan update.
  4. **Data Development** - R&A continue support for improved travel demand model, continue 2017-42 RTP update, continue ODOT model training as available.
  5. **Transit** - No projects identified.

The draft UPWP was submitted for review by federal and state planning partners (Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and ODOT). Comments from various jurisdictions have been incorporated into the final draft.

**The Chair opened the public hearing**

**In support:** None received

**In opposition:** None received

**The Chair closed the public testimony.**

**On a motion by Jim Lewis, seconded by Mike Zarosinski by, the RVMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Resolution 2016-01 was unanimously approved by voice vote.**

**On a motion by Jim Lewis, seconded by Mike Zarosinski, Resolution 2016-02 (Self Certification) was unanimously approved by voice vote.**

***Public Hearing #2:***

**The Chair read the procedure for the public hearing.**

## **5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Regional Plan Amendment**

Ryan MacLaren shared that the Policy Committee is being asked adopt the proposed RTP/TIP amendments. The TAC voted unanimously to recommend said approval. The 21-day public comment period and public hearing has been advertised in the Medford Tribune, and information is currently available on the RVMPO website.

- **Interstate 5: Exit 33 Off-Ramp Improvement**

Description: Construct a second right turn lane on the northbound off-ramp at I-5 Exit 33 in response to development pressures in Central Point and to address safety concerns associated with queuing on the off-ramp. Without this improvement, queuing is expected to extend into the I-5 mainline travel lanes, creating significant safety and operational concerns on I-5. The cost is budgeted at \$967,000. Costco, Central Point and ODOT

Region #3 will fund the project. The project is exempt from regional conformity requirements. Upon questioning, funding sources were clarified for the Committee members. Costco's contribution was based upon their expected impacts on the transportation system. Mike Baker shared that other allocated funds will remain the same, and will not impact other obligated projects.

**The Chair opened the public hearing**

**In support:** None received

**In opposition:** None received

**The Chair closed the public testimony.**

**On a motion by Tonia Moro, seconded by Rich Rosenthal, the Regional Plan/Transportation Improvement (TIP) Amendment was approved by the Policy Committee with a unanimous voice vote.**

**Action Items:**

**6. 2015 Annual List of Obligated Projects**

Ryan MacLaren presented the list of obligated projects. Federal law requires MPOs to publish annually, on their websites, a list of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding federal fiscal year. The draft report includes a list of projects obligated federal funds in FFY 2015 and includes information on the distribution of those funds by jurisdiction, agency, and project type.

All obligated dollar amounts contained in the list were provided by ODOT and RVTD. The purpose of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects is to provide transparency in federal transportation planning, and to serve as a reference to track consistency in the year project funds are obligated versus the year they were programmed. Following TAC approval, the list will be presented to the Policy Committee and posted to the RVMPO website at the end of the month. The obligation timeframe is Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

After being updated with new handout figures, the list includes:

- Introduction
- Federal Requirements
- Federal Funding Sources
- Other Funding
- Distribution of Funds by Jurisdiction and
- Distribution of Funds by Project Type
- Project Delivery, Phasing
- List of Obligated
- Obligated Projects
- Map
- Appendix A Federal Regulations

Cascade Sierra Solutions (16290) obligated was previously removed from the list.

**On a motion by Tonia Moro, seconded by Jim Lewis, the Committee unanimously approved the 2015 Annual List of Obligated Projects.**

## **7. State Transportation Improvement Program Enhance Non-Highway Proposal**

In July 2015, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) approved Enhance program funding and a revised process for the FY 2018-2021 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Region 3 will receive -\$5.169 million. Enhance funds are mostly comprised of federal funds allocated to the State, and do not include federal or state formula disbursements to local jurisdictions. ODOT (Lisa Cornutt, STIP Coordinator) would like to share your input with the RVACT on the following STIP Enhance Non-Highway proposals:

- ODOT Region 3: OR99 Multimodal PH1: Coleman Creek to Birch - \$1,982,000 request

Also provided for the Committee were an ODOT cover letter with the RVMPO STIP Enhance Non-Highway Proposal, STIP Enhance Funding Guidelines and the OR 99 Multimodal PH1: Coleman Creek to Birch, Enhance Proposal Form.

Art Anderson shared that the MRMPO had was also involved in the coordination of this matter.

The Committee was asked to provide input on proposal to be shared with the RVACT.

**On a motion by Tonia Moro, seconded by Jim Lewis, the Committee gave its support for the proposed Oregon 99 – Phase I, Enhanced Project as it works its way through the approval process with the Policy Committee and RVACT. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

## **8. RVMPO Planning Update –**

- Dan Moore spoke about the potential additions (a change to FHA regulations) of Salem and Eugene-Springfield to those entities eligible for CMAQ funds. Mr. Moore passed out an informational table showing that RVMPO funds will be reduced by 47%. Two spreadsheets were passed out to explain the currently approved obligations. The deficit shown is less than has been programmed over the past four years. ODOT recommends that current projects proceed, with the deficit being dealt with in 2019, the next time the list will be redone. The whole situation remains in flux, and could change if Eugene-Salem request full allotments, but a compromise is hoped for until the next funding cycle in 2019, with current RVMPO projects being held harmless. Ongoing work is being done on the specific numbers. No information is available on the methodology for the FAST Act Annual Amounts. In response to a question from John Vial, Mr. Moore said that, based on Map 21, CMAQ guidance was changed to allow former “maintenance areas”, and now out of that status, to be eligible for funding. This situation will not be dealt with in a public forum until a later date. Mr. Vial also said that the State has a great deal of discretion in how the funding would be allocated. ODOT will need to initiate the discussions. No specific decisions/projects adjustments have been reached at this point. Staff is hoping that a compromise can be reached with ODOT. Art Anderson offered his opinion that there should be a low level of concern for current projects until 2019. An amendment to the RTP financial plan would be necessary at some point. In 2019, the available amount may be as little as \$700,000. Art Anderson offered some possible strategies for dealing with this situation. Using CMAQ funding last. population formulas

was also mentioned, by Paige Townsend, RVT, including the fact that the 2019 figures might not be inclusive of all required jurisdictions. Members questioned the feasibility of sending a letter to ODOT to ask for additional explanations on this situation. Al Densmore said that the OTC should be working on this for maximum benefit to the evaluation process without messing up this “decade”. The Chairman thanked Dan Moore for all his work on this issue. Members asked for Staff to draft a letter to OTC to request more information/clarification, and express its concerns on this matter. The draft will be sent out electronically, and finalized for the OTC meeting in May.

Some of the suggested comments for the letter may include:

- The MPO is vitally concerned about the potential loss of 47% of its CMAQ funding, and the inherent, negative effect that it could have on air quality in southern Oregon. This is particularly relevant because no such percentage drop in estimated population can be substantiated.
- The State and FHA have already acknowledged the population estimates in the current funding cycle, and the projects funds have been obligated.
- Is there a process whereby existing, obligated projects could proceed on a hold harmless basis, with amendments coming at time when future project allocations are on the table?
- The timing on this matter (falling midway in a census cycle when a five year plan is already in place), causes MPO member jurisdictions grave concern, and is felt to be ill advised from a timing perspective.
- It is understood that air quality is a significant issue in Salem and Eugene-Springfield, but not to the detriment of the progress that continues to be ongoing in southern Oregon.
- There is not enough available public information on the history of this process, or the methodology by which the CMAQ funding process changes are being created.
- If there is a departmental discretionary mechanism in place for making choices in this process, both the mechanism and how much discretion is permitted would be extremely valuable information for both MPOs, local decision makers and the general public.
- No more information has been received at a local level about the Greenhouse Gas Target Rule Advisory Committee.
- The RVMPO is hosting the next OMPOC meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Public Comment**

None received.

## **10. Other Business / Local Business**

Mike Quilty, representing Central Point on the LOC, gave an update on LOC matters. The Medford Airport is up over 14% (11%, without including the Klamath Falls service loss) for the past year.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

**Scheduled Meetings:**

RVMPO PAC	Tuesday, May 17th @ 5:50 pm
RVMPO TAC	May 11th @ 1:30 pm
RVMPO Policy	Tuesday, May 24th @ 2:00 pm