

**SUMMARY MINUTES
 ROGUE VALLEY MPO POLICY COMMITTEE
 MARCH 28, 2017**



The following attended:
RVMPO Policy Committee

<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Bob Strosser	Jackson County	774-6119
Bruce Sophie	City of Phoenix	535-1216
Jim Lewis	City of Jacksonville	899-7023
Tim D'Alessandro for Mike Zarosinski, Vice Chair	City of Medford	
Mike Quilty, Chair	City of Central Point	664-7907
Mike Faught for Rich Rosenthal	City of Ashland	941-1494
Tonia Moro	RVTD	973-2063

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Dan Moore	RVCOG	423-1361
Andrea Napoli	RVCOG	423-1369
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Stephanie Thune	RVCOG	423-1368

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Alex Georgevitch	City of Medford	774-2114
Mike Baker	ODOT	957-3658

Mike Kuntz	Jackson County	774-6228
Mike Montero	Montero & Assoc., LLC	944-4376
Sarah Westover	City of Phoenix	972-0869

1. Call to Order / Introductions/ Review Agenda

Chairman Quilty called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. The Committee began with introductions followed by a moment of silence, requested by Art Anderson, in memory of Pat Foley, RVCOG Community Development Specialist.

2. Review / Approve Minutes

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

On a motion by Bruce Sophie, seconded by Jim Lewis, the minutes of the February 28, 2017 meeting were approved as presented. *The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

3. Public Comment

None voiced.

Public Hearing Action Item:

4. 2017-2042 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2017 Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD)

The Chair read the procedure for the public hearing.

Dan Moore explained that the Policy Committee was being asked today to adopt by resolution these three related documents: 1) the 2017–2042 RTP, 2) the 2018-2021 TIP, and 3) the 2017 AQCD, which relates to both the RTP and TIP.

He then provided a brief overview of the documents with highlights as follows:

2017-2042 RTP: The 2017-2042 RTP represents a major update (required every four years) and will replace the 2013-2038 RTP. Along with updating the goals and policies, all of the chapters, the regional transportation project list and the financial forecast, staff also built a brand new travel demand model.

2018- 2021 TIP: The 2018-21 TIP was determined to be financially constrained with approximately \$114,000,000 in federal, state, and local transportation project funding. Key information contained in the document includes: a comparison of the previous year TIP projects and funding levels, details of the TIP amendment process, the full program of projects, and the status of previously approved TIP projects.

2017 AQCD: All newly funded projects for the region are listed, and the results of a completed PM₁₀ emissions analysis, showing that the region is in conformity for particulate matter, are included. According to federal clean air rules, a carbon monoxide (CO) emissions analysis is no longer required for the RVMPO, which is on a Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP). The final document draft also

incorporates comments made by the interagency consultation group regarding air quality issues and the AQCD.

The public comment period related to these three documents began on February 28, 2017 and the public hearing notice was published in the Mail Tribune.

Documents included for Policy Committee reference in consideration of today's action included: a synopsis of the air quality findings; "Exhibit A," included in the AQCD to address the timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs); and a handout summarizing 2017-2042 RTP-related comments by RVT, ODOT and the City of Medford, with RVMPO staff responses to those comments.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Public Advisory Council (PAC) have reviewed and commented on the 2017-2042 RTP, the 2018-2021 TIP and the 2017 AQCD; both groups are recommending approval of the three documents. With Policy Committee approval, the documents will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to start the conformity determination process. In addition, the 2018-2021 TIP will be submitted to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); once the Governor's signature is obtained, the approval process will be complete.

The Chair solicited member questions for staff: *none voiced.*

The Chair opened the discussion to public comment, both in support and in opposition: *none voiced.*

The Chair closed the public hearing.

Policy Committee deliberations yielded a comment from Tonia Moro, who expressed a desire for greater TAC and Policy Committee involvement in the review process – prior to the 30 days preceding the public comment period – for future revisions to the RTP and TIP; she would also like for the Policy Committee to be provided with a Scope of Work by the end of 2017 for the next RTP revision process. Dan Moore responded that the Scope of Work for the 2017-2042 RTP as well as projects, the financial plan, and goals and policies were shared with both the TAC and Policy Committee during the revision process of the RTP up for adoption today; the TAC was also very involved in the building of the new travel demand model. Moore will provide Moro with a copy of the 2017-2042 RTP Scope of Work, recognizing that her request for a new Scope of Work for the next RTP revision process by the end of this year still stands.

On a motion by Jim Lewis, seconded by Bruce Sophie, the Policy Committee proposed adoption of Resolution Number 2017-1: RVMPO Policy Committee Adoption of the RVMPO 2017-2042 Regional Transportation Plan.

The Chair noted for the record that the word "Plan" needed to be added to Resolution Number 2017-1 prior to his signing.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

On a motion by Bruce Sophie, seconded by Bob Strosser, the Policy Committee proposed adoption of Resolution Number 2017-2: RVMPO Policy Committee Adoption of the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement program. *The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

On a motion by Jim Lewis, seconded by Bruce Sophie, the Policy Committee proposed adoption of Resolution Number 2017-3: RVMPO Policy Committee Adoption of Air Quality Conformity Determination for the RVMPO 2017-2042 RTP and 2018-2021 TIP.

Bruce Sophie registered his surprise at public transportation's minimal effect on the reduction of greenhouse gasses and pollution. Karl Welzenbach explained that this is because the long-range plan has to be fiscally constrained and – via collaborative discussions between RVMPO and RVTD staff – the assumption of fiscal constraint and longevity of revenue streams for RVTD is lacking. Sophie and Welzenbach agreed that RVTD funding in light of the greenhouse gas reduction issue was desirable.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Action Item:

5. Public Advisory Council (PAC) New Member Application

An application has been received from Larry Martin, expressing his desire to represent Central Point on the RVMPO PAC. The PAC unanimously recommended his approval to the Policy Committee, whose approval is being sought today; Martin's application was provided as a handout.

Chairman Quilty shared experience of Martin being a committed community member and dependable committee participant; he has been active on behalf of his community for many years.

On a motion by Jim Lewis, seconded by Tim D'Alessandro, the Policy Committee moved to appoint Larry Martin to fill the Central Point vacancy on the RVMPO PAC. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ryan MacLaren called attention to the fact that there are currently a number of vacancies on the PAC. RVMPO staff outreach to-date has been met with only minimal success. The PAC membership chart – updated with Larry Martin's name – will be emailed to Policy Committee members as well as to selected city and county staff in an attempt to spread the word throughout the region of the opportunity to serve on the PAC either in a Citizen Involvement Area or a Special Interest Position. The chart may also be viewed here: https://www.rvmppo.org/images/public-advisory-council/Membership/170330_PAC_Membership_Chart.pdf.

Discussion Items:

6. “What Are MPOs?” Presentation

Karl Welzenbach gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the history, impetus for and logic behind the establishment of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), which are a unique phenomenon in that they grew out of a local initiative later adopted by the federal government adopted and made into law. The presentation traced the processes involved from initial impetus in 1919 to the establishment of the modern-day MPO and included definitions as well as information about operating principles and the three required MPO documents (RTP, TIP, and UPWP).

7. Planning Update

There is a statewide CMAQ Advisory Committee; Mike Quilty and Pam VanArsdale (Mayor of Rogue River) are members. The committee's role is to discuss and develop a new distribution methodology for CMAQ funds, and it has been decided that the methodology will be based on a new formula, which

ODOT will draft by April 10. The formula will then be discussed by managers and forwarded through the MPO committees for review, with a deadline of June for the final program design recommendation. Handouts detailing the timeline for CMAQ decisions as well as progress to-date regarding consensus-building for formula design factors were distributed.

Art Anderson commented that the formula ought to have mathematical significance, and not be reliant on subjective weighting. Mike Montero voiced a recommendation that – prior to formula draft design – David Collier at DEQ be contacted to determine whether dispersion modeling requirements for the Rogue Valley were still in force. Bruce Sophie mentioned that air quality should be as much a formula weighting factor as population, or the Rogue Valley will not be able to get sufficient funding for projects.

Welzenbach went on to report that an updated table for CMAQ project funding will be distributed to Policy Committee members, showing revised figures now that the anticipated 47% funding cut has been delayed until 2019. Total CMAQ funds equal 3.47 million, with 1.124 million constrained to unfunded portions of the initial six projects on the list. The remaining balance of 2.347 million will be available to fund other projects; discussions with the TAC will help to guide the funding allocation process.

8. Public Comment

None voiced.

9. Other Business / Local Business

Chairman Quilty remarked that if a CMAQ formula matrix is delivered by ODOT, it will be e-mailed to Policy Committee members; regardless, a report regarding the status of proceedings will be made at the April 25 Policy Committee meeting.

Bruce Sophie inquired about an initiative in upcoming legislation regarding OTC reverting to 1990s format as opposed to ODOT making decisions, but no one present had any information on the issue. Welzenbach reported that an Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC) meeting would be held in April or May to discuss the current legislative issues and initiatives. There was an initiative in a bill to set aside a percentage of CMAQ funds for diesel retrofit, but that initiative will likely be killed.

Chairman Quilty expressed appreciation for Bruce Sophie’s years of service to the City of Phoenix, the Rogue Valley, and the RVMPO.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings:

RVMPO TAC	Wednesday, April 12 @ 1:30 pm
RVMPO Policy	Tuesday, April 25th @ 2:00 pm
RVMPO PAC	Tuesday, May 16 @ 5:30 pm