

**Summary Minutes**  
**Rogue Valley MPO Policy Committee Meeting**  
**June 25, 2019**



The following attended:

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Rick Dyer	Jackson County	774-6118
Joh Harrison for Darby Ayers-Flood	City of Talent	535-1566
Jim Lewis	City of Jacksonville	899-7023
Al Densmore, <b>Vice Chair</b>	City of Medford	601-0704
Mike Quilty, <b>Chair</b>	City of Central Point	664-7907
Rich Rosenthal	City of Ashland	488-5347
Ruth Jenks	City of Eagle Point	941-8537
Tonia Moro	RVTD	973-2063
<b>Alternate Voting Members Present</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
John Vial	Jackson County	774-6238
Scott Fleury	City of Ashland	552-2412
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
James Gerhardt	RVCOG	423-1369
<b>Interested Parties</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Mike Montero	Montero & Associates	944-4376
Alex Georgevitch	City of Medford	774-2114
Mike Kuntz	Jackson County	774-6228
Paige West	RVTD	608-2429

Shandell Clark	Jackson County	774-6519
Carol Voisin	Ashland Resident	
Craig Anderson		
S R Hall	Ashland Resident	

[RVMPO Policy Committee June 25, 2019 Agenda Packet](#)

Full meeting recording: [2019-06-25 RVMPO Policy Committee Meeting Audio](#)

**1. Call to Order / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00–01:45**

2:04 p.m. | *Quorum*: Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Medford, Jacksonville, Jackson County, ODOT, RVTD

**2. Review / Approve Minutes 01:46–02:11**

**01:51** | *Jim Lewis moved to approve the May 28, 2019 policy committee meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Rich Rosenthal.*

*No further discussion.*

*Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

Agenda Item #6—Public Comment—was moved up to become Agenda Item #3.

**3. Public Comment 02:12–08:45**

1.) Carol Voisin, City of Ashland resident and former City Councilor

- The City of Ashland, Transportation Commission as well as City of Ashland residents previously spoke out about issues of withdrawing the East Nevada Street Bridge project from the CIP list.
- Many in Ashland (residents, councilors, commission members) are still interested in pursuing a bicycle/pedestrian bridge at East Nevada Street and ask that funding tied to the issue receive a delayed final decision.
- Supportive of delaying funding for Independent Way-Washington Street to Tolman Creek Road project to address safety issues that could result without a median on Ashland Street.
- The Ashland City Councilors and Transportation Commission need more time to understand the projects and issues mentioned before funding decisions are made as well as time for further discussions regarding a bicycle/pedestrian bridge for East Nevada Street.
- Public Comment Submission, [PDF Link](#)

2.) Craig Anderson

Issues of Concern:

- The process followed for bringing the Independent Way/Washing Street project to the RVMPO Policy Committee after the TAC unanimously recommended the medians be a condition of the project—the recommendation was not discussed with the policy committee.
- The City of Ashland approved a development that is contingent upon access at Washington Street and left turns in and out of Washington Street. ODOT reviewed the project application and made no comment regarding the medians.
- The Washington Street project is entirely based upon the medians being built and is in the Ashland TSP.
- A project based on safety improvements cannot be honestly built without them and building this project without the medians is fraud.
- The City of Ashland never adopted the IAMP because of the medians and not wanting to build them. Constructing the medians would have tremendous impact on the businesses in the area. If the City doesn't want to build the medians, they should not receive the money that was specifically for the medians.
- The trust placed in the city councilors and governments officials that are responsible for bringing these types of issues forward has been tremendously jeopardized and undermined through the process followed by RVCOG staff.

3.) Public Comment by S. Hall submitted post-meeting (7/8/19), [PDF Link](#)

Please see Page 5 of the Minutes for the full public comment submission.

## ***Public Hearing***

### **4. Amendment to the 2018–2021 RVMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**08:46–15:35**

The Chair read the public hearing procedures and public comment rules.

Staff provided background on the TIP amendments.

The Chair opened the hearing to public comment. No public comment was made. The hearing was closed.

**14:47** | *Rich Rosenthal moved to approve the 2018–2021 TIP amendment, North Couplet Pedestrian Crossing (Phoenix), as presented. Seconded by Jim Lewis.*

*No further discussion.*

*Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

## ***Action Items***

### **5. Discussion and Resolution of the Washington St. Extension 15:36–43:39**

Correction: Additional money for the cost of the median in Ashland was \$30,000 not \$35,000 as stated in the agenda item's background.

**36:53** | *Rich Rosenthal moved that the Policy Committee reapprove the Washington Street Extension to Tolman Creek Road to include the appropriate traffic controls in lieu of a median. Seconded by Al Densmore.*

*With the funds dedicated for the median to be spent on traffic controls to reduce the potential for left turning movement from Washington Street onto Ashland Street.*

*Tonia Moro abstained.*

*The motion carried by a majority “Aye” voice vote.*

**6. Review and Authorization for the Chair to Sign Letter of Support for the City of Medford’s BUILD Grant Application 43:40–47:55**

**47:07** | *Jim Lewis moved to authorize the Chair of the RVMPO Policy Committee to sign a letter of support for City of Medford’s BUILD grant application for the “Mega-Corridor” Project. Seconded by John Harrison.*

*No further discussion.*

*Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

***Discussion Items***

Public Comment Agenda Item was moved to become item #3.

***Regular Updates***

**8. RVMPO Planning Update 47:56–49:30**

**9. Other Business / Local Business 49:31–53:09**

**10. Adjournment**

2:57 p.m.

*Scheduled Meetings*

RVMPO Policy Committee | July 23, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

RVMPO TAC | July 10, 2019 | 1:30 p.m.

RVMPO PAC | July 16, 2019 | 5:30 p.m.

July 8, 2019

Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee  
Jefferson Conference Room  
155 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Central Point, OR

Attention: Mike Quilty( Chair) & Members of the RVMPO Policy Committee

I attended the June 25, 2019 RVMPO Policy Committee meeting to listen to Action Item #4: Discussion and Resolution of the Washington St, Extension (Ashland). Karl Welzenbach directed the discussion.

The background of this project is on the Agenda. The Agenda stated this item was brought back at the request of ODOT rep. Art Anderson.

The issue: the Project's median cannot be built to work correctly ( Agenda description).

Now my comments:

Prior to this meeting, I had read the comprehensive email sent to EACH of you on the Policy Committee by Craig Anderson, Ashland resident. On 6/25/19, Mr. Anderson reminded the Committee that this project (without the safety median) fails to meet required safety elements for construction. Safety elements were always essential and required for this project from Day 1.

The Committee's subsequent discussion essentially conceded there were questions about the project design that were still outstanding. Several members ( Tonia Moro for one) clearly were uncomfortable to ignore RVMPO established procedures/processes for review of projects needing further evaluation.

What a fiasco:

I witnessed. ODOT, Art Anderson who couldn't seem to remember safety issues originally required, although I believe Karl corrected the issue.

I listened to Rich Rosenthal (Ashland) explain how disastrous a late delay would be with a project that seems to be "shovel ready" ( HUMM ...even if it is not a safe design) . He put on a pretty convincing look of sincerity on his face as he subtly pled his case. His message: Such a sad state of affairs if Ashland was made to conform to RVMPO review requirements which would delay the project from getting started. His body language fairly screamed: Safety ! What hogwash!

A few of you on the Committee appeared to support further review , but ALAS when the final vote came, you all folded and put this fiasco through. .Only Tonia Moro showed any integrity but then sadly, she ducked the issue by abstaining..

As a member of the public witnessing this meeting , it was shocking to see how shallow your review process is and how quickly you succumb to pressure from within your own committee. It seems you just ignore what your job is in an effort to "PLAY NICE". I almost threw up when I listened to one member when she apologized to Rosenthal for daring to even ask for clarifications on the project.

You should all resign or be replaced if you can't "critically think" through the issues in front of you. And for heaven's sake stop cracking jokes about asinine alternatives for "safety", and how to spend the \$30,000.00 you threw to Ashland.

I request this letter be submitted for the record.

Susan Hall RN  
210 E. Nevada Street  
Ashland