



SUMMARY MINUTES

*Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee*

July 9, 2014

The following people were in attendance:

RVMPO Technical Advisory Committee

Voting Members in Attendance:

Alex Georgevitch	City of Medford
Jon Sullivan	RVTD
Josh Le Bombard	DLCD
Kelli Sparkman	ODOT
Kelly Madding	Jackson County
Mike Kuntz	Jackson County
Mike Upston	Eagle Point
Paige Townsend	RVTD
Tom Humphrey	City of Central Point
Robert Miller	City of Eagle Point

Others Present:

Mike Baker, Mike Montero.

RVCOG Staff

Jonathan David, Dan Moore, Andrea Napoli, Bunny Lincoln, Sue Casavan, Mike Cavallaro

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Chairman Mike Kuntz called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Review / Approve Minutes

Chairman Kuntz asked committee members if there were any additions or corrections to the June meeting minutes.

On a motion Tom Humphrey and seconded by Kelli Sparkman, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was forthcoming.

4. RVMPO Environmental Justice and Title VI Plan

Andrea Napoli explained updates to the Plan. New mapping is based on 2010 data (Census and American Community Survey)

New data includes:

- New sources
- Geography levels
- Population Identification Categories

Ms. Napoli explained new mapping methods. More accurate information and better depiction of local conditions has been created. Basic changes remain untracked, but substantive changes were documented. Senior and minority populations, low income, and limited English speaking were mapped. Regional averages were used to identify populations in the entire MPO area. A single map, combining various minority populations (non-white) was created.

The public comment period has begun, and the updated draft document(s) will go to the Policy Committee in August.

During a discussion period, Committee members spoke about:

- Possible map color changes (no gradations) to allow for better definition and ease of reading
- Future discussion of senior demographics (higher income levels Vs low income cohorts)
- Ms. Napoli stated that the region has a higher than national average senior population, and reviewed the scoring criteria. If the scoring was changed, the document would have to be amended accordingly.
- Mike Cavallaro said that seniors' special needs are not necessarily met, and that they need to remain as a minority population category to account for ways in which their needs may be met in the future. The region is working with AARP, and its Lifelong Housing concept is the first in US.
- As part of comments on transportation, signage & mapping routes for slower moving vehicles were mentioned as future improvements for seniors.
- Whether the Plan could be used to apply for CDBG grants
- The Plan is primarily used to demonstrate compliance with Federal requirements.
- RVTD needs more maps to delineate the Latino and disadvantaged populations, and must prove any proposed RVTD service changes are not negatively affecting any disadvantaged populations. Provisions of service to all population categories must be demonstrated.

On a motion by Tom Humphrey, seconded by Mike Upston, the Committee recommended Policy Committee approval of the Plan (with inclusion of the additional minority population maps discussed). The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Review of Draft 2015-18 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) amendments

Dan Moore presented information that the COG just received notice (today) that a recently completed analysis (conducted by Sierra Research) demonstrated that CO emissions are found to be three times over the allowed budget. The errors in past conformity analysis were caused by CO model estimates which did not include cold starts. All previous reviews have been approved with the erroneous information (based on a flawed model) included. The COG must petition DEQ for new CO emissions budget, and cannot move forward at this point. Monitors continue to work properly, but the model was not calibrated correctly. When the cold starts data was run from the previous models, the results corresponded with those found by Sierra Research. The CO budgetary overrun only affects Medford.

Mike Cavallaro asserted that the budget is based on bad data, caused by a flawed model, and the Region should not be punished because it has remained under national standards for years. It is felt by COG that there is an excellent case for not affecting the current TIP. The COG will push on every available level (interagency consultation group, petitioning the Governor's office, DEQ and EPA) to resolve the conformity lapse issue in order to assure that currently modeled, approved projects in the TIP and conforming RTP can move forward. Some long range projects could be in jeopardy, and need to need moved to short range category.

Jonathan David is drafting a memo to DEQ requesting an adjustment to the CO budget.

Members discussed potential timelines for resolving the problem, the fact that the current RTP is approved until April, 2017, and the dynamics, including funding sources, surrounding the Foothill, Lozier, and Columbus projects. Alex Georgevitch questioned how this situation might affect Medford's current loan process, but there was no answer forthcoming.

Mike Cavallaro outlined the potential for other problems, and the fact that other jurisdictions may be similarly affected. As a "fallback", Dan Moore will be creating an interim TIP list, to be available for presentation to the interagency consultants, should the COG plan to push forward aggressively to get an adjustment to the budget issue as soon as possible not be viable. Concern was expressed that the ODOT STIP might be affected as well. Budget adjustments are the only option to correct the problem. With receipt of the final Sierra Research memo, the issue is ready to go to the interagency consultants immediately.

Mike Montero put forth some historic information about problems associated with a previous, budgetary overrun sanction in the 1990s, causing the shutdown of some industry facilities, and spoke to the need for everyone to be aware of the "worst case scenario" should a resolution not be found quickly.

Dan Moore shared that the DEQ will be pressed to create a regional PM10 and CO Limited Maintenance Plans (because limits have not been exceeded in the past ten years), which would then preclude the need for future modeling.

It was suggested that the TIP might be carried through to Policy Committee adoption, with Findings and a determination that the region is in conformity because of past practice with respect to cold starts. It would then fall to the affected agencies to find otherwise.

The public comment solicitation notice will go out next week. Mike Kuntz said it was only fair to notice affected agencies about the current MPO direction on the matter.

Alex Georgevitch reiterated his query as to whether this could be a statewide issue, and asked that Medford remain fully informed on the status of this issue as they are at the end of their loan application process, and have a huge stake in the outcome.

Dan Moore stipulated that the TIP projects must be included in the RTP. Jurisdictions need to review their project lists, and comment on any changes by July 16th. TAC recommendations to the Policy Committee will be considered at the August meeting.

6. Alternative Measures Analysis Areas

Dan Moore shared a memo created by the Alternative Measures Steering Committee. Main discussion points were:

- Increasing alternative housing and employment opportunities
- What areas should be considered?
- A definition of activity centers based on Medford's TSP
- Creation of other activity centers for member jurisdictions
- Membership agreement with mapped activity centers
- Potential redefinition of activity centers (TODs? Others areas demonstrating increased densities and/or reduced need for vehicular use?)
- Multi-modal focus needed for pedestrian/bike friendly environments
- The need to improve internal pedestrian/bike mobility with larger activity centers (RV Mall, hospitals, etc.)
- Repurposing commercial properties to mixed use developments, thereby increasing densities
- 2005 LCDC approved activity centers are defined in the Steering Committee memo
- Designations must be consistent with Comp Plans

Sue Casavan suggested that each jurisdiction provide their specific activity center determinations and comments, with RVCOG providing tax lot maps. The Committee would then conduct an overall review of the maps. LCDC approved definitions outlined in the memo would be used for Measures #5 & #6. The focus for the exercise will be high density residential (10+ units/acre) and commercial activity centers. Definitions will include planned, but unconstructed developments. The COG will provide individual maps, and once the member jurisdictions have completed their reviews and changes, the TAC will be allowed to make general comments.

7. MPO Planning Update

Jonathan David said that resolving the air quality issue is the primary Staff focus at the moment.

8. Public Comment

None received.

9. Other Business / Local Business

RVTD – Transportation Options meeting in Ashland on Friday, July 11th.

Mike Kuntz shared that the Bear Creek Greenway near EXPO and Upton Road is now open.

Meeting Information:

- RVMPO TAC meeting will be held Wed., August 13th, at 1:30PM.
- RVMPO Policy Committee meeting will be held Tues., July 22nd, at 2:00 PM.
- RVMPO PAC scheduled for 5:50 PM, Tuesday, July 15th has been cancelled.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.