

**Summary Minutes  
Rogue Valley MPO Technical Advisory Committee  
JUNE 14, 2017**



The following attended:

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Alex Georgevitch	Medford	774-2114
Dan Roberts	ODOT	774-6383
Ian Horlacher	ODOT	423-1362
John Vial	Jackson County	774-6519
Josh LeBombard	DLCD	414-7932
Kyle Kearns	Medford	774-2380
Mike Faught for Maria Harris	Ashland   PL	552-2045
Mike Kuntz, <b>Chair</b>	Jackson County   R&P	774-6228
Ray DiPasquale	Phoenix	535-2226
Robert Miller	Eagle Point	826-4212
Tim D'Alessandro for Paige Townsend	RVTD	944-3530
Tom Humphrey	Central Point	423-1025
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Andrea Napoli	RVCOG	423-1369
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Stephanie Thune	RVCOG	423-1368

Interested Parties	Organization	Phone Number
David Young	Ashland Transportation Commission Member	
Kelly Madding	City of Medford	774-2009
Susan Hall	Ashland Citizen	

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

Chair Mike Kuntz called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and introductions were made. A quorum was confirmed, with voting members or alternates from Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Medford, Phoenix, Jackson County, ODOT, and RVTD in attendance.

No changes to the agenda were required.

**2. Review / Approve Minutes**

The Chair asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of the May 10 meeting.

**On a motion by Alex Georgevitch, seconded by Ian Horlacher, the Committee recommended approval of the May 10 RVMPO TAC meeting minutes as submitted.**

*The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

**3. Public Comment**

None voiced.

**Action Items:**

**4. Re-adoption of the RVMPO 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amendment of the 2017-2042 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

Karl Welzenbach reported that, although both the MRMPO and RVMPO met ODOT’s deadline for 2018-2021 TIP approval, ODOT subsequently changed items in its STIP. As a result – and since the two documents’ projects must match identically – ODOT is requesting that both MPOs re-adopt (not amend) their 2018-2021 TIPs to include the previously omitted STIP projects.

Ryan MacLaren highlighted details of information provided in the agenda packet regarding the five project additions under consideration:

- a. RTP #732 | W. Valley View Road Safety Improvements
- b. RTP #921 | OR140 Exit 35 Blackwell Road
- c. RTP #930 | OR62 Corridor Solutions Unit 2 Phase 3 (Medford)
- d. RTP #931 | OR99 Birch Street to Coleman Creek Culvert (Phoenix)
- e. RTP #961 | OR140/OR238 Bridge and Culvert Rail Upgrades

Other updates mainly consisted of changes to construction years, right-of-way years, or funding specifications. None of the projects required air quality assessments; all were either neutral or exempt in that regard.

Welzenbach noted that, in addition to these five items, the East Nevada Street Bridge project (Ashland) is being “returned” to the TIP since it was never fund-exchanged as intended. Agenda item #5 below provides further details regarding this project’s status.

Once the Policy Committee finalizes the TIP re-adoption on June 27, both the TIP and the STIP will be frozen to preclude any further changes (until amendments are allowed after October 1). Additionally, in order to prevent potential TIP re-adoptions in future years (with possible project funding penalties as a result), efforts are underway and will be ongoing to overhaul the TIP/STIP coordination process from preparation through submittal stages.

**On a motion by Alex Georgevitch, seconded by Tom Humphrey, the TAC recommended amendment of the 2017-2042 RTP and re-adoption of the 2018-2021 TIP to the RVMPO Policy Committee.**

Discussion revealed several updates needed to *Appendix B: Transportation Project Funding Sources* on Page 23 of the TIP:

- *Jackson County* | Remove “Timber Receipts and”
- *City of Medford* | Remove “parking fees”
- *City of Ashland* | Add “food and beverage tax”
- *Cities of Ashland, Eagle Point and Talent* | Change “STP” to “STBG”

The entire page will be emailed to all TAC members for a more thorough review; staff will incorporate all feedback prior to taking the TIP to the June 27 Policy Committee meeting for re-adoption.

***The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

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***Discussion Items:***

**5. East Nevada Street Bridge Project Status**

Mike Faught explained that the Ashland City Council will be discussing the status of the East Nevada Street Bridge project, which lacks public support, on June 25; he is hopeful of providing the Council with one or more viable alternatives with the help of TAC input today.

Faught provided an overview and details of the three proposed alternatives which were provided to TAC members in the agenda packet. The alternatives, with brief summaries of related discussion, are as follows:

**A. Project B3 | 12’ Bike/Ped Bridge**

This project has the most public support and does offer some modal improvement in terms of bike/ped, but, due to minimal regional significance or benefit to transit/emergency service, would rank the lowest in the MPO staff evaluation process. It was also noted that dedicating flexible roadway project funds (STBG) to an exclusively bike/ped project is not particularly desirable (though understandable given the uncertain future of available CMAQ funds).

**B. Project B3 | 20’ Bike/Ped/Transit/Emergency Vehicle Bridge**

Public support may be hard to garner for this option, though it would score higher in an MPO staff evaluation. John Vial explained that either this option or Option A would serve to extend the Bear

Creek Greenway (one of a handful of regionally significant trails in the state) across the creek towards Immigrant Lake. David Young, a member of the Ashland Transportation Commission in attendance, shared that the Commission's identified priority is internal transit to Ashland, so it is possible that some enthusiasm for this option could come from that quarter.

C. Project R25 | Construct Roadway and Bridge Improvements to Extend Washington Street to Tollman Creek Road

This project is the most regionally significant. It is identified in the IAMP as a singular access point and there is a projected need for a median on Oregon Route 66; a secondary local network would be created. Additionally, according to Faught's description, "This project already has a Council-approved agreement in place with the property owner. In addition, the City has already purchased the right-of-way and is developing construction plans and specifications along with obtaining all environmental permits for construction." Faught did note that the project would require – in addition to the re-allocated \$1.5 million from the East Nevada Street Bridge project – \$1.6 million dollars to complete.

Ashland citizen Susan Hall presented a sort of hybrid alternative to Options A and B above: a 14' bike/ped/emergency vehicle bridge with the use of collapsible bollards. Concerns expressed by TAC and staff members included:

- the bulb-outs necessary to accommodate safe emergency vehicle passage would add expense;
- transit and emergency vehicles would have to yield to bike/ped traffic, slowing response time (emergency vehicles) and possibly affecting transit schedules; and
- a 14' width – allowing for a 10' vehicle lane and 4' shoulder – could only accommodate one bike/ped lane, not two.

In light of the input provided, Faught felt that Options B or C were the strongest. He will present the alternatives to the Ashland City Council on June 25 and submit them for scoring to MPO staff.

Related to the foregoing discussion, item 3(a)(ii) of the *RVMPO Policy Regarding Awards of Discretionary Federal Transportation Funds* was interpreted as follows:

- If the MPO approves the re-allocation of the \$1.5 million dollars to a different Ashland project, the issue is resolved.
- If the MPO rejects the substitution, however, then the \$1.5 million will be returned to the MPO and a new Call for Projects will be issued.

It was noted, though, that a more thorough discussion of the *RVMPO Policy Regarding Awards of Discretionary Federal Transportation Funds* was desired and would take place at the July 12 RVMPO TAC meeting.

## **6. State Transportation Funding Package Update**

John Vial provided an update on House Bill 2017-3, noting that the package it proposes is huge and, if passed, would be transformational for Oregon's transportation system. The bill continues to change rapidly as it nears completion; the "-5" version is now being drafted and is expected to be subject to a yes/no vote by the Joint Committee with no further amendments allowed. If approved by the Joint Committee, HB 2017-5 should make it to the House floor in approximately three weeks before, hopefully, moving on to the Senate.

A thorough executive summary of the bill as well as a spreadsheet detailing proposed revenue sources/amounts were provided as handouts, with highlights noted by Vial. It was noted that three major issues spurred the formulation of the proposed legislation: 1) statewide transit issues and lack of

mobility, 2) maintenance and operations concerns (i.e. roads and bridges falling apart), and 3) terrible congestion in the Portland metro region.

All comments and amendments related to HB 2017 can be found at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Measures/Overview/HB2017>.

## 7. Public Comment

None voiced.

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## Regular Updates:

### 8. Updates on Currently Active RVMPO Projects

- *Ashland* (Mike Faught): A bid has been made on the Hershey Street sidewalk; more money is needed.
- *Jackson County* (Chair Kuntz): The design is being finalized for Table Rock between I-5 and Biddle; bidding is likely in December with construction beginning in January.
- *Central Point* (Tom Humphrey): The Twin Creeks Railroad Crossing will go to bid in August, with construction starting in September. The Seven Oaks Crossing will close.
- *Phoenix* (Ray DiPasquale): Awaiting policy decision from the Council on lane assignments on Main Street before looking at Fourth Street.
- *Medford* (Alex Georgevitch):
  - Foothills Project: Hillcrest to McAndrews goes to Council on June 15. Design will be finalized this year, with construction starting next year.
  - Lozier Lane: Currently in construction Phase 1 of 3.

### 9. MPO Planning Update

- Air quality modeling will be taking place for 1) the removal of the Phoenix RPS street network project, 2) the South Stage Road Overpass/Extension, 3) Foothill Road at Cedar Links/Delta Waters and 4) South Foothill Road. Results of the analyses will be shared with the TAC before modifications are made to the RTP.
- The final CMAQ cuts appear to be: RVMPO | 55%; MRMPO | 47%. With this outcome, the MPO is not likely to pursue an IGA with RVTD as previously discussed as a way to safeguard funds currently allocated to RVTD via Alternative Measure 7.

### 10. Other Business / Local Business

- *RVTD*: From Detroit, Paige Townsend communicated that RVTD has been awarded the “Best Small Urban Transportation District in the Nation.” She expressed her thanks on behalf of RVTD for all of the support provided by the MPO over the years.
- *Ashland*: Mike Faught requested that, *if* HB-2017 is passed, RVTD share information at the August 9 RVMPO TAC meeting regarding their plans for the revenue they will receive from the proposed payroll tax.
- *Medford*: Kyle Kearns stated that Medford’s TSP update is in progress and is utilizing a virtual open house/online workshop to garner input/feedback about the transportation system.

### 11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

*Scheduled Meetings*

RVMPO Policy Committee | June 27, 2017 | 2:00 p.m.

RVMPO TAC | July 12, 2017 | 1:30 p.m.