

**Summary Minutes
Rogue Valley MPO Technical Advisory Committee
April 14, 2021**



The following attended:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Karl Johnson	Ashland PW	488-5587
Matt Samitore	Central Point PW	664-3321 x205
Mike Upston	Eagle Point PL	826-4212
Alex Georgevitch, Chair	Medford PW	774-2114
Mike Kuntz	Jackson County R&P	774-6228
Justin Shoemaker	ODOT	774-6376
Paige West	RVTD PL	608-2429
Alternate Voting Members Present	Organization	Phone Number
Staff	Organization	Phone Number
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Kelsey Sharp	RVCOG	423-1375
Interested Parties	Organization	Phone Number
Jenna Marmon	ODOT	
Mike Montero		

[RVMPO TAC April 14, 2021 Agenda Packet](#)

[Meeting Audio 04/14/2021](#)

1. Call to Order / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00–01:27

1:31 p.m. | *Quorum*: Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Medford, Jackson County, ODOT, RVTD.

2. Review / Approve Minutes 01:27–02:36

01:46 | *Mike Upston moved to approve the March 10, 2021 RVMPO TAC Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Matt Samitore.*

No further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Action Items

3. Review and Recommend Adoption of Active Transportation Plan 02:36 – 14:24

This is the second time the ATP has been brought to the TAC. There have been some edits done, mostly the concepts that have had their language changed. The appendix is not complete yet and is estimated to be completed tomorrow for review.

08:01 | *Question from Justin Shoemaker: Will it be published with this picture?
There is time to change it if someone has other recommendation.*

08:58 | *Question from Alex Georgevitch: If the TAC recommends approval, will that be contingent on the agreements between RVT, ODOT, and Kittleson being completed?
The expectation is early next week everything will be final, and the appendices are to be completed tomorrow.*

12:31 | *Paige West moved to recommend approval of the Active Transportation Plan. Seconded by Mike Kuntz.*

Comment from Paige West: This type of planning work has been brought up as needed all around the state. This MPO is ahead by doing this now. Great work by all who have worked on this!

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation Regarding Washington Street Additional \$30,000 14:24 – 25:25

Previously, the TAC recommended an extra \$30,000 for a median for the Washington Street Project. The Policy Committee passed the recommendation. After, there was not enough right-of-way for a median. The TAC recommended and the Policy Committee agreed to have the project continue to move forward. However, the additional \$30,000 in funding was never discussed.

17:22 | *Question from Alex Georgevitch: This money was specific for the median on this project. If that is true, what would have happened to the money?*

If the money were spent, Ashland would owe the money back. It is currently unclear if Ashland received the funds, and the records are being looked at. If it is owed back, Ashland is prepared to give the money back to the MPO.

23:25 | *Comment from Alex Georgevitch: Would anyone have any issues with this item being tabled or removed as an action item and allow RVCOG staff to work with Ashland to find a resolution?*

No issues were raised.

24:10 | *Mike Upston motioned to remove this item as an action item and have RVCOG staff work with City of Ashland and ODOT administratively. Seconded by Mike Kuntz.*

An update after was requested and promised.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Amendments to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program 25:25 – 41:44

28:35 | *Comment from Alex Georgevitch: In the past there has been a discussion about more information given to the TAC before giving a recommendation. There is confusion about where the OR99/I-5 curb ramp project is taking place.*

A new policy will be made at staff level. If the staff cannot find specifically where the project is, then the project will not be brought to the TAC until that can happen.

Comment from Justin Shoemaker: This project may be a little different because it is a Child Project from the Parent Project, ADA Curb Ramps. When these projects are started, a whole corridor is surveyed, and every ramp is considered a possible project. This is then given a key number so ODOT can proceed into the planning phase. Then, the consultant will identify which ramps are more feasible to be done in a timely manner, and those are grouped into one amendment for the TIP. The maps being requested here may not be done yet due to the consultant still identifying the ramps. There has been leniency requested for the ADA projects to ODOT can get them all completed by the deadline.

Question/Request from Karl Welzenbach and Alex Georgevitch: Could ODOT send a description with that explanation or some more information along when requesting an amendment?

36:03 | *Question from Mike Upston: It is understood that the ADA projects are a little different. However, with the other project descriptions can we get more information?*

One reason the project descriptions tend to be vaguer is because ODOT will have to deliver whatever is in the description, or an amendment for the STIP will have to be done. Doing an amendment takes a lot of time and resources.

41:00 | *Mike Kuntz moved to recommend approval of the amendments to 2021-2024 TIP. Seconded by Paige West.*

No further discussion.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion Items

5. Initial Discussion of Covid-19 Funding 41:44 – 01:05:19

The RVMPO will be getting \$2.5 million in Covid-19 relief funding. These funds are to be treated like STBG funds. There are extra things that can be done with the funds that STBG cannot usually go to, such as paying back lost wages.

With that being said, the State is proposing an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (the agency responsible for distributing these funds to the states) to offer a different distribution strategy. In essence the state of Oregon would take all of the funds to pay back towards the \$225 million dollar loss in gas tax revenue – thus allowing the Federal government to fulfill its obligation

under the law via a vis funding distribution – and freeing up the state to then distribute State funds to the MPOs and to those counties and cities not in MPO areas. This would effectively “wash the funds” of any federal restrictions, requirements, or prohibitions. This agreement, should it be sanctioned, would therefore provide the two MPOs with significant funding without any restrictions placed on the use of said funds. This will be a serious and ongoing deliberation at both MPOs as to how best to expend these monies.

51:45 | *Question from Alex Georgevitch: This process will be different than other funding. Usually for STBG would have funds for transit immediately taken. How will we score projects for this? And if the deal does go through, what will we do with the funds?*

Comment from Justin Shoemaker: A lot of the projects loaded into the STIP from the MPO are under-funded. If the funding goes through, ODOT would recommend using these funds for that.

A special workshop was called for by Karl Welzenbach. The Chair and Staff at RVCOG will work together to come up with scenarios to discuss with the TAC at a later date.

This was agreed upon by all.

Alex Georgevitch directed RVCOG staff to email the TAC with a full work-up.

01:00:09 | *Question from Alex Georgevitch: Is there a timeframe on this, or can this be wrapped with the next cycle of CMAQ?*

The next cycle is not for another 18 months. If the deal does not go through, the timeline will be four years to obligate. If the deal does go through, then there is no timeline.

6. Public Comment 01:05:19–01:05:46

No Comments

Regular Updates

7. MPO Planning Update 01:05:46–01:13:07

Provided by Karl Welzenbach regarding the Infrastructure Transportation Bill.

8. Other Business / Local Business 01:13:07–01:12:07

Updates provided by RVDT and Medford.

9. Adjournment

2:47 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings

RVMPO TAC | May 12, 2021 | 1:30 p.m.

RVMPO Policy Committee | April 27, 2021 | 2:00 p.m.

RVMPO PAC | April 20, 2021 | 5:30 p.m.