



SUMMARY MINUTES

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

March 19, 2014

The following attended:

NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE
<u>MPO Policy Committee</u>		
Darin Fowler	Grants Pass	660-3696
Aaron Cubic for Lily Morgan	Grants Pass	476-6168
Mark Gatlin	Grants Pass	441-7674
Mike Baker	ODOT	957-3658
Pam Van Arsdale	Rogue River	660-4414
Robert Brandes	Josephine County	474-5460
Simon Hare	Josephine County	474-5221
Gus Wolf	Gold Hill	621-9653

Others Present

Art Anderson	ODOT
John Vial	Jackson County
Michael Black	Grants Pass
Terry Haugen	Grants Pass
Jay Meredith	Grants Pass
Neil Burgess	JACO Public Works
Scott Chancey	JOCO Transit
Mark Gatlin	Grants Pass

RVCOG Staff

Jonathan David	RVCOG	423-1338
Dan Moore	RVCOG	423-1361
Bunny Lincoln	RVCOG	944-2446

1. Call to Order / Introductions/ Review Agenda

Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Committee began with introductions.

2. Review / Approve Minutes

The Chair asked if there were any changes or additions to the February meeting minutes.

On a motion by Pam Van Arsdale and seconded by Mike Baker the minutes were approved as presented.

3. Discretionary Funding Projects –

Dan Moore opened a work shop on application proposals from the various MPO participants mentioning that the TAC had met to recommend approval of the list and also made various funding concessions so that all the projects could be funded.

- **Grants Pass** – Alternative Fuel Facility (Feasibility & Design)

Jay Meredith, Grants Pass Finance Director presented details of the City’s application for CMAQ funding to do an economic feasibility study to potentially construct an alternative fueling facility for either LPG or compressed gas. It is expected that this effort will be collaboration between the City, Josephine County, the local school district and law enforcement and trash collection company, with Grants Pass managing the study and RFP process. LPG and CNG will be the project focus. Different agencies could utilize different fuel sources, with Transit being a major benefactor. The last part of the study would determine potential facility locations. Additional CMAQ funding would be required to actually move forward to construction. Simon Hare voiced his opinion that the assessment study was an inherent part of the project.

A discussion ensued regarding actual allowed uses for CMAQ funds, specifically pure “studies” not moving into a project, as opposed projects that include preliminary design as part of a proposal. Alternative funding sources were also discussed.

- **Grants Pass** - Bike/Pedestrian Improvements (Evaluation and design through Improvement)

Michael Black gave an overview of Grants Pass’ pedestrian deficiencies and proposed Bike/Pedestrian improvements.

Specifics included:

- Four intersections with no controls
Solutions:
 - Curb extensions
 - Striping
 - Pedestrian activated flashing beacon signals
- Bike boulevards, crosswalk improvements, bike land extensions and multi-modal pathway
- Trail connections and improvements in the Fruitdale Creek area (CMAQ transportation oriented)
- Bike Lanes – Gilbert Creek Park area

Members discussed potential, alternative funding sources.

- **Grants Pass** - Downtown Transit Hub Relocation

Significant locational problems currently exist with the downtown bus hub, and it needs to be moved as soon as possible. Conflicts exist between pedestrians and traffic flows. A study is needed for preliminary relocation strategies. Scott Chancey commented that 2-5 busses can be waiting at certain times. Simon Hare expressed concern that it might turn out that the existing hub location might be found to be the best location for passengers. Mike Black said that additional required infrastructure for a new hub would preclude it remaining in its current location. Mike Baker pointed out that the requested funding appeared to just be covering the project planning, and asked if other funding sources have

been researched for doing the pre-construction analysis and design. JOCO Transit has been exploring those possibilities.

- **Grants Pass** – Redwood Avenue

Terry Haugen outlined the current Redwood Avenue deficiencies, and details of Phase 2 and 3 improvements. The largest problem with Phase 2 is development in the existing right of way. Design is 99% complete. Actual right of way width issues are being worked out with property owners. The City is requesting STP funds for this project.

Phase 3 (highest Grants Pass City Council priority project) - While the street currently exists, the “pork chop” is non-workable. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes. There is some area development/landscaping in the City right of way. The concept plan calls for constructing a four-way signal at Allan Creek Road/Redwood Avenue, and a pedestrian crossing/beacon at Redwood Circle. Final design is ready to begin. Design has been completed. Construction is expected to begin in 2015. ODOT is concerned that the life of the project is relatively short (3-5 years, assuming a .015 percent growth rate) and believes the Allen Creek-Redwood Ave. intersection may need to be moved to the north. ODOT enhanced funds might be available to assist with construction. Art Anderson supported the fact that a more in depth study needs to be done. Michael Black expressed concern about possibly losing funding opportunities. Simon Hare said that mitigating existing area safety issues is a paramount priority. John Vial asked if the State could support the project. Mike Baker said that ODOT’s concerns were too serious at this point. Jonathan David suggested calling another meeting to address the matter in further detail. Mike Baker clarified that the funding would not go away if a bit more time is taken to fully analyze all the project parameters. John Vail said that he would vote to fund the project today, with additional discussions to potentially follow. Simon Hare said he needed ALL the information in order to make an informed decision.

Jonathan David said that the Committee could take until April to make a decision on all the projects. Michael Black pointed out that the TAC had approved the entire Discretionary Funding list, and recommended it for Policy Committee approval as well.

- **Grants Pass** - Lincoln Road (Bridge Street to Lower River Road)

Terry Haugen shared the site deficiencies, proposed improvements and the regional significance of the area system. Some landscaping features will be included. Design is 100% complete. Construction is pending.

- **Grants Pass** - Fruitdale Drive (Hwy. 238, east to Hwy. 99)

STP (bike/fed and CMAQ (road)) funds are being sought. Terry Haugen spelled out existing conditions/problems and lack of bike/pedestrian facilities.

Schedule:

- 2016 Project development
- 2017 Design & ROW acquisition
- 2018 Phase 1 construction (Hamilton to Drury)

The project ties into the Bike Trails project.

- **Josephine Community Transit** – Service to/from Medford (3 year pilot project @ five trips/day), based on passenger demand and number of required runs)

Scott Chancey spoke to a commuter link to Rogue Valley Transit routes, covering partnership with Grants Pass and Lane County Transit (bus loans), CMAQ “new service”, funding, scheduling, fares, per day costs, potential revenues, transfers and routes (including “on call” stops in Gold Hill and Rogue River). The local match could possibly be covered by non-emergency medical transportation. Mr. Chancey spoke of the potential creation of a “Park and Ride” parking lot behind the Grants Pass Post Office and long term feasibility/annual operating costs for the program.

- **Josephine County** – Neil Burgess addressed four projects on behalf of the County:
 - The Merlin downtown core – sidewalk additions and bike/pedestrian enhancements. 89% STP funds. Remainder is local match.
 - Beacon, Hillcrest to 10th St. Loop (north of Interstate 5) – Bike Lanes and sidewalks. Some elevation constraints. School, park and adult living facility in the area. Design funding Vs future construction funding was discussed. Preliminary centerline design done. Utility coordination needed.
 - “G” Street – (future jurisdictional exchange) Road improvement design and construction cost estimates.
 - Highland Avenue (Vine to Cook) – Roadway, bike/pedestrian improvements (future jurisdictional exchange). Design and construction cost estimates.

Projected costs, funding sources (STP, CMAQ and federal), potential for loans and required construction timing were discussed by the Committee. Jonathan David pointed out that the projects that call for planning and design (CMAQ dollars) must be fully funded, with construction being started within ten (10) years, or the MPO will be responsible for returning the federal funds. Construction cost forecasts must be made so project completion can be assured, and complete phases must be funded. Jonathan indicated that RVCOG Staff would create a spreadsheet showing potential future project funding sources.

- **RVCOG** – Jonathan David explained the COG’s STP (fund exchange) application to purchase a staff hybrid vehicle for MPO trips (personal cars/rentals are used now). The application speaks to a 50/50 cost split between the Rogue Valley and Middle Rogue MPOs. Members briefly discussed possible other, non-MPO use for the car, and asked the COG to do a cost/benefit analysis for the next meeting.

On a motion by Aaron Cubic and seconded by John Vial to tentatively approve the Discretionary Funding List, minus the Grants Pass Parkway Bike/Ped. Evaluation and Design. Under “discussion”, Simon Hare stated that he was opposed to the motion. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes, and one (1) nay.

4. MRMPO Planning Update

Jonathan David gave a brief update on planning activities.

5. Public Comment

6. Other Business / Local Business

Pam Van Arsdale thanked ODOT for eliminating the bird problem (with the installation of spike strips)

under the Depot Street Bridge.

7. Agenda Build for Next Meeting

- Project reviews for final recommendations
- Process time line
- Project process review protocols

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.