



**Summary Minutes
Middle Rogue MPO Policy Committee
March 15, 2018**

The following attended:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Barry Eames	Grants Pass	218-1403
Bob Strosser	Jackson County	774-6119
Christina Stanley	Gold Hill	855-1525
Dan DeYoung	Josephine County	660-0342
Darin Fowler, Chair	Grants Pass	660-3696
Pam VanArsdale, Vice Chair	Rogue River	660-4414
Rick Riker	Grants Pass	479-7333
Rob Brandes	Josephine County	474-5460
Staff	Organization	Phone Number
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Stephanie Thune	RVCOG	423-1368
Interested Parties	Organization	Phone Number
Jason Canady	Grants Pass	450-6110

[MRMPO Policy Committee March 15, 2018 Agenda Packet](#)

Full meeting recording: [2018-03-15 MRMPO Policy Committee Meeting Audio](#)

Specific items are hyperlinked below.

- 1. Call to Order / Introductions/ Review Agenda 00:00 – 00:42**
2:35 | *Quorum*: 5 voting members, regardless of jurisdiction

2. [Review / Approve Minutes](#) 00:43 – 01:09

The Chair asked if there were any changes or additions to the February 15 meeting minutes.

00:52 | Pam VanArsdale moved to approve the February 15 MRMPO Policy Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Christina Stanley seconded.

There was no further discussion.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Presentations

3. [Proposed Project Streamlining](#) 01:10 – 15:50

Karl Welzenbach presented an idea regarding GIS-based project streamlining for the MPO that could potentially be implemented at a planning level as the MRMPO develops/updates its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The goal of the streamlining effort would be to pre-identify issues (e.g. through SHPO, DEQ and other agencies) with projects before they are submitted for MPO funding consideration.

Response to Welzenbach's proposal was generally favorable, with the primary concern being that the permitting agencies would have no real incentive to review the projects/submit comments in a timely manner at such an early stage (essentially pre-planning) of the projects. While Welzenbach conceded that there would be no way to compel the agencies to contribute comments, he explained that they would always be contacted when a new project was posted with a request for them to review the project and submit comments within 120 days.

- Welzenbach will be presenting the idea to all MPO committees over the coming month as well as to the OMPOC members in April to elicit feedback to inform next steps.
- To-date, several ODOT staff are enthused by the project's potential and John Rausch, ODOT's Natural Resources Unit Manager, is supportive.
- Welzenbach believes that ODOT would have to agree to pay Oregon State University (OSU) to host the platform.

Discussion Items

4. [MRMPO UPWP | FY2018-2019](#) 15:51 – 18:15

The UPWP is required for every MPO by the federal government and comprises the MPO's program budget, delineating how much planning money will be received, where it is coming from and how it will be spent.

Welzenbach reviewed highlights of two minor changes to the categorization of line items contained in Sections 1 and 2 of the [Draft MRMPO UPWP FY2018-2019](#).

Comments regarding the draft document should be emailed to kwelzenbach@rvcog.org prior to the TAC's April 5 meeting. At that time, a recommendation for approval of the MRMPO UPWP FY2018-2019 to the Policy Committee will be sought as adoption of the document is required in April.

5. Public Comment 18:16 – 18:40

None voiced.

Regular Updates

6. Planning Update 18:41 – 28:39

- *OMPOC* | The April 27 OMPOC Meeting will be held in Grants Pass at the City Hall Council Chambers.
 - Review of the catering options for the meeting led to a decision to hire Babe’s Bakery for breakfast and the Orchid Grill for lunch.
 - A local tour is being planned for after the meeting, possibly of Redwood Avenue. A bus ride may also be offered.
 - Speakers and topics include:
 - Paula Brown with the OTC (not yet confirmed)
 - Legislative updates
 - Statewide platform for TIP development/discussion
 - Proposed Project Streamlining presentation by Welzenbach
- *Performance Measures* (PMs) | Safety PMs were adopted in February. “Freight Movement on the Interstate System” and “On-road Mobile Source Emissions (through CMAQ)” will need to be adopted in October; information will be shared over the coming months.

7. Other Business/Local Business 28:40 – 48:25

- Chair Fowler thanked Mayor VanArsdale for her Vice Chair duties over the past several meetings in his absence.
- *CMAQ Recap*
 - Lane and Salem Counties’ eligibility for CMAQ has raised the MPO count vying for CMAQ funds, but with no additional CMAQ money available. As a result, the RVMPO is seeing a 51% cut in their CMAQ funding, the MRMPO a 22% cut.
 - The state is not required to distribute all the CMAQ funds to the MPOs; it is required only to spend the CMAQ money where it is eligible to be spent.
 - ODOT is considering a regulation to reclaim unspent CMAQ money from the MPOs. If the regulation is enacted, the MRMPO could likely lose whatever portion of its current estimated \$4 million CMAQ carryover that has not been spent within three years from the date the regulation is passed.
 - The MRMPO CMAQ carryover is not due to staff oversight; rather, the problem lies in identifying CMAQ-eligible projects in such a small regional area that meet the specific CMAQ project guidelines (i.e. CMAQ funds can only be spent in downtown Grants Pass on very specific projects).
 - Concentrated effort will be given to identifying potential CMAQ-eligible projects for the MPO.
 - Additional funds for counties and cities will be forthcoming as a result of HB-2017, so project identification at this point is timely.
- *Josephine County* | Rob Brandes
 - Seven great bids were received for the Merlin sidewalk project, with three coming in under engineers’ estimates. The project continues to struggle with pushback from local businesses, however.
 - The Transportation System Plan (TSP) is close to being contracted with Kittelson & Associates, Inc.

8. Adjournment 48:26 – 48:31

3:23 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings

MRMPO TAC | Thursday, April 5, 2018 | 1:30 pm

MRMPO Policy Committee | Thursday, April 19, 2018 | 2:30 pm