



**Minutes**  
**Middle Rogue MPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
**July 6, 2017**

The following attended:

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Chuck DeJanvier	Josephine County	474-5460
Dan Roberts	ODOT	774-6383
Ian Horlacher	ODOT	423-1362
Jason Canady	Grants Pass	450-6110
John Vial, <b>Chair</b>	Jackson County	774-6238
Josh LeBombard	DLCD (quorum)	414-7932
Michael Bollweg	Rogue River	660-0093
Scott Chancey	Josephine County Transit	474-5441
<b>Alternate Voters / For</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Tom Schauer for Lora Glover	Grants Pass	450-6072
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Dan Moore	RVCOG	423-1361
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Stephanie Thune	RVCOG	423-1368
<b>Interested Parties</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Jenna Marmon	ODOT	774-5925
Lesley Orr	Bike/Ped	226-9214

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

Chair John Vial called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.; introductions followed. There were no changes to the agenda.

### **2. Review / Approve Minutes**

The Chair asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of the March 4 meeting.

**Ian Horlacher moved to approve the June 1 MRMPO TAC meeting minutes as presented. Scott Chancey seconded. *The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

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### ***Presentation:***

#### **3. Region 3 Active Transportation Liaison**

Jenna Marmon delivered a PowerPoint presentation related to ODOT's Active Transportation Plan, and clarified her role as the plan's liaison, which includes planning and policy work, projects, maintenance, outreach/liasing, and serving as an internal and external resource.

Key points of the presentation included:

- Active Transportation (AT) = any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation. It also includes transit as backup for walking/biking, etc.
- Benefits of AT include: increases in access to services and independence for those without driver's licenses; cost savings; increased health and well-being; and improved mental health.
- ODOT's AT goals include creating and/or enhancing: health; safety; efficiency; economic opportunity (i.e. opportunity for people who don't drive – which is about 1/3 of the population – to participate in the community); livable communities; and the "roaming range" of people. In pursuit of these goals, ODOT is shifting gears from thinking "Highway" to thinking "Transportation" and is focusing on system solutions for moving people and moving freight.
- Aspects of HB 2017 (currently pending Senate approval) that will benefit AT/transit were also briefly highlighted.

Chair Vial encouraged jurisdictional/agency outreach to Marmon, stating that her knowledge of AT guides and design principles is an impressive resource to have at-hand.

Copies of the USDOT/FHWA booklet entitled "Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks" were distributed. Marmon has additional copies available upon request.

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### ***Action Items:***

#### **4. 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments**

Ryan MacLaren reported that the MRMPO RTP and TIP need to be amended to include the following four projects:

##### **A. Sand Creek Road Bridge**

Description: *"The bridge is currently closed, and the substructure rating has been updated to show that "failure is imminent." The existing detour is two miles long, the roadway width is narrow, and there is a blind 90-degree corner that is a concern when school buses and first responders are operating during poor weather conditions. The detour is not suitable for long-term use."*

**B. Grants Pass-5310 E&D Transit Capital STP (17-19)**

Description: “*Purchased Service, Preventive Maintenance and Vehicle Purchase.*”

**C. Josephine Co-5310 Enhanced Mobility Program (17-19)**

Description: “*Preventive Maintenance.*”

**D. ORE Salt Pilot PH 2: Bridge Deck Testing & Sealing**

Description: “*Salt testing on bridge decks; design of sealing and overlay projects, and construction of protective systems.*”

Notice of a public hearing and comment period regarding the amendment was published in the Rogue River Press on Wednesday, June 28, and in the Grants Pass Courier and Medford Mail Tribune on Thursday, June 29, when it was also posted on the MRMPO website. The 21-day public comment period will conclude on July 20, on which day the MRMPO Policy Committee meeting will conduct a public hearing and vote on the item.

**Chuck DeJanvier moved that the TAC Committee recommend approval of all four 2015-2040 MRMPO RTP and 2015-2018 MRMPO TIP amendments to the Policy Committee. Ian Horlacher seconded. *The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

**5. Review of Bylaws**

The following Policy Committee suggestions related to the TAC’s proposed Bylaws revisions were reviewed:

- *Article III, Section 1:* DLCD and DEQ will be re-classified as “ex-officio members,” meaning that they will have voting rights, but will not count towards a quorum.
- *Article IV, Section 3(b):* This will now read as “A quorum shall exist when the majority of member jurisdictions and agencies are present. Ex-officio members shall not count towards a quorum.”

Following brief discussion, the suggestions were agreed to with no dissenting opinions or other concerns.

**Jason Canady moved that the TAC Committee recommend approval of the revisions to the TAC Bylaws to the Policy Committee. Scott Chancey seconded. *The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

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***Discussion Items:***

**6. Public Comment**

None voiced.

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***Regular Updates:***

**7. Updates on Currently Active MRMPO Projects**

- *Josephine County Transit:* Scott Chancey spoke of the significant amount of money set aside for transit operations in HB 2017. If passed, HB 2017 would augment Josephine County transit funds (currently an annual budget of \$1.2 million to be increased by \$817,000) as well as earmarking

other funding to be used for inter-city travel, so that a project such as the “Rogue Valley Commuter Line” could be developed in joint application with RVTD.

- *RVMPO*: Dan Moore inquired about the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for the RVMPO. Jenna Marmon replied that Jackson County was able to secure \$200,000 from RVMPO funds to do a region-scale ATP focused on regionally significant destinations and bike/ped/transit connectivity between them. Once the ODOT/Jackson County IGA is finalized, Jackson County should be able to secure a consultant to begin the work.
- *Jackson County*: Chair Vial reported on the trail project on North River Road (part of the Rogue River Greenway). The project has been stalled with ODOT wanting to know the outcome of the state transportation package prior to entering into a fund-exchange agreement with the County. An IGA has been written, but is not being circulated until the status of the funds and their release date is known.
- *Grants Pass*: Dan Moore inquired about the status of the Grants Pass TSP. Ian Horlacher stated that David Evans & Associates (DEA) has been hired as the consultant and that costs, contingencies and scope are currently being considered; hopefully a contract will be in place by the end of August.

## **8. MPO Planning Update**

Karl Welzenbach gave the following report:

- CMAQ negotiations resulted in the MRMPO receiving only the “floor” minimum of \$450,000 in CMAQ funds effective 2019, which represents a 47% cut over prior funding levels. The RVMPO suffered a 55% cut.
- The same discrepancies still exist between the three different ODOT reports summarizing CMAQ fund balances for the MPOs. Until accurate balances are known, future project planning cannot take place. Welzenbach will follow up with Amanda Pietz in August regarding the reconciliation efforts; she has recently been assigned responsibility for the CMAQ program by Lynde McGregor and needs a little time to orient to the position.
- A paring down of the eligibility of projects for CMAQ funds is also currently under consideration by ODOT; the outcome should be basically inconsequential for both the MRMPO and the RVMPO, since the focus is primarily on transit, bike/ped and eligible TCMs.

Chair Vial inquired about the potential loss of CMAQ eligibility for the widening of rural roads to include full-width shoulders (which could also serve as bike lanes). Welzenbach replied that the issue centered on whether the rural road was actually getting a significant enough transition to pike/ped to make it worthy of CMAQ funds. This in itself is nearly impossible to track/quantify due to nearly non-existent bike/ped data; the installation of monitors could be helpful in this regard if funding could be found. Welzenbach also said it seemed that if a certain connectivity requirement was met – if the route connected to a major network – then, logically, the route should be eligible regardless whether it is a rural road or not, but there is no clear language on that at this time.

Welzenbach then asked Josephine County/Grants Pass staff to clarify whether the Alternate Routes Study that is listed in the UPWP is included in the county’s Emergency Management Plan. Though two separate county plans exist, it is unlikely that the Alternate Routes Study data is included as it may not have been finalized at the time the plans were developed. It was noted that the Emergency Manager, Jenny Hall, works out of the Josephine County Commissioner’s office and is leaving her position on July 20 with no replacement hired to-date; Dan Moore will contact her for follow-up.

**9. Other Business / Local Business**

None voiced.

**10. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

*Scheduled Meetings*

MRMPO Policy Committee | July 20, 2017 | 2:30 p.m.

MRMPO TAC | August 3, 2017 | 1:30 p.m.