



Minutes
Middle Rogue MPO Technical Advisory Committee
April 5, 2018

The following attended:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Dan Roberts	ODOT	774-6383
Dick Converse	Gold Hill	423-1373
Eric Heesacker <i>for Chuck DeJanvier, Vice Chair</i>	Josephine County	
Ian Horlacher	ODOT	423-1362
Jason Canady	Grants Pass	450-6110
Mike Kuntz <i>for John Vial, Chair</i>	Jackson County	774-6228
Michael Bollweg	Rogue River	660-0093
Scott Chancey, Chair pro tem	Josephine County Transit	474-5441
Wade Elliott	Grants Pass	450-6114
Staff	Organization	Phone Number
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Stephanie Thune	RVCOG	423-1368
Interested Parties	Organization	Phone Number
Lesley Orr	Bike/Ped	707-218-4025
Tom Schauer	Grants Pass	450-6072

[MRMPO TAC April 5, 2018 Agenda Packet](#)

Full meeting recording: [180405 MRMPO TAC Meeting Audio](#)

NOTE: Due to server space restrictions, the hyperlinks to cut audio files for specific items have been eliminated. Please use the times listed behind each agenda item to forward to the segment you wish to listen to using the link to the full meeting recording above.

1. Call to Order / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00 – 01:29

1:30 p.m. | *Quorum*: Grants Pass, Jackson County, Josephine County, ODOT

- Chair pro tem Scott Chancey stated that he may need to move Item 9 ahead of Item 8 on the agenda to be certain information related to “Local Business” could be shared prior to his necessary departure at 2:00 p.m.

2. Review / Approve Minutes 01:30 – 02:32

The Chair pro tem asked if there were any changes or additions to the February 1 meeting minutes.

02:05 | Jason Canady moved to approve the February 1 MRMPO TAC meeting minutes as presented. Chair pro tem Chancey seconded.

There was no further discussion.

*The motion carried by voice vote.**

**All attendees except for Canady, Chancey and Roberts abstained, having not been present at the February 1 meeting.*

Action Items

3. 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments 02:33 – 08:56

Ryan MacLaren reported that the MRMPO RTP and TIP need to be amended to add Project A below, but that only the TIP would be amended for the combination of the two projects specified under Project B:

- Southern Oregon Seismic Triage (KN 21296)
Description: *“Perform seismic upgrades on 17 bridges and 7 hillside slopes.”*
- Copies of the “Rogue Valley* Seismic Event Highway Triage Approach” document were made available for review.
**“Rogue Valley” is a misnomer on the document. The study comprises all of southern Oregon up to Eugene.*
- The MRMPO has seven bridges (three on I-5 and four on Highway 99) and zero landslides included in the seismic triage plan.
- \$35 million was earmarked by HB2017 for the seismic triage work.
- Even though this project will soon be split into two separate projects, it is necessary to amend it into the RTP and TIP as is at this time so that it can get started.
- Grants Pass Signal & Pedestrian Upgrades (KN 19960) **and** I-5 Exit 58 – 6th & Morgan (KN 17477)
Description: *“The original project K19960 included a signal at 7th and M Street; after project kickoff it was determined that the justification for the signal was not appropriate for ARTS funding of the project. The signal was removed from the project allowing those funds to be moved to other safety projects,*

primarily K18880 for Region Rumble Strips.” It has been determined that the safety improvements in K17477, I-5: Exit 58 6th & Morgan Intersection Improvements, are aligned with the same type of safety upgrades remaining in K19960. Combining the two projects with similar funding sources and common safety and ADA improvements will create a single project to utilize the funding effectively and efficiently. The proposal is to combine K19960 and K17477, utilizing K19960 and its current project name.

- The projects are already in the RTP, so no amendment is necessary for that document.
- The elimination of \$1.3 million in project cost triggers a full TIP amendment, since the funding change exceeded 20%.

08:20 | Jason Canady moved that the MRMPO TAC recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the 2015-2040 MRMPO RTP and 2018-2021 MRMPO TIP to the Policy Committee. Ian Horlacher seconded.

There was no further discussion.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. MRMPO UPWP | FY2018-2019 08:57 – 12:21

The UPWP is required for every MPO by the federal government and comprises the MPO’s annual program budget, delineating how much planning money will be received, where it is coming from and how it will be spent. The document has been publicly noticed for over one month now, and was reviewed once previously by the TAC in February. Adoption of the document is required this month.

Tasks 1 and 2 of the document have been slightly modified to ensure that Task 1 contains program management (administrative) items only and that Task 2 items all pertain to short range planning.

11:51 | Mike Kuntz moved that the MRMPO TAC recommend adoption of the MRMPO UPWP | FY2018-2019 to the Policy Committee. Ian Horlacher seconded.

There was no further discussion.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Presentations

5. Proposed Project Streamlining 12:22 – 27:05

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.

- 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. Mike Baker has suggested a regional pilot of the process to gauge local permitting agencies’ willingness to participate.
- If some sort of participation agreement from the permitting agencies could be reached within the next six months, an attempt could be made to incorporate the project streamlining efforts into the MRMPO’s RTP update process, which is slated to begin in July (RTP adoption required in 2020).

Discussion Items

6. Public Comment 27:06 – 27:54

- *Lesley Orr, Chair, Grants Pass Bikeways and Walkways* | Copies of a [press release and map](#) concerning upcoming construction on the Rogue River Greenway were made available.
- *Tom Schauer, Grants Pass Senior Planner* | The project management team is getting ready to update the TSP.

Regular Updates

7. Updates on Currently Active MRMPO Projects 27:55 – 39:25

The spreadsheet of funded projects was reviewed; all jurisdictions present provided updates, which will be incorporated and made available for May’s meeting.

8. MPO Planning Update 46:55 – 51:37 **Item postponed until after Item 9*

- *Obligation Reports* | Ryan MacLaren will be emailing draft copies of the MRMPO FFY2016 & FFY2017 obligation reports out for review. Sign-off by the MPO is not required, but any inaccuracies or other comments should be directed to rmaclaren@rvcog.org by Friday, April 13. If no comments are received, the reports will be published as presented in draft form.
- *Transportation Planning Rule (TPR)* | The new TPR is anticipated to be adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) in May. Under the existing TPR, the MPO was required to develop a regional TSP that was consistent with the RTP and the TSPs of each jurisdiction. According to the new language in the TPR, however, responsibility for TSPs and Alternative Measures will fall to the local jurisdictions and agencies rather than the MPO, although the MPO can act as a coordinator if there is unanimous agreement across the jurisdictions.
 - Three options – a menu approach of sorts – will be presented at the end of the proposed revisions to the TPR; depending on the option selected, LCDC’s report on economic impact may need to be modified.

9. Other Business / Local Business 39:26 – 46:54 and 51:38 – 51:45 *(no additional comments)*

Chair pro tem Chancey explained that Grants Pass has a CMAQ project for which they entered into a partnership with Josephine County to provide sidewalk infill along certain segments surrounding transit stops. The project is nine years old and was difficult to start, because of funds moving through a channel of FHWA, FTA, Josephine County, and now finally Grants Pass.

Initially, with a project award of roughly \$1.7 million, roughly 23,000 linear square feet of sidewalk were to be built, but after building only approximately 10,000 linear sf, the project is out of budget. This appears due to the fact that the project estimate has jumped from \$50/sf to \$150/sf, mainly due to the curb cuts and ramps required.

It would be best to keep the project moving forward, since it is easier to amend funding into an existing project, but this means that Grants Pass will need to come back to the MPO mid-funding stream to request additional CMAQ funds. Some of the original project segments were removed due to right-of-way issues, so approximately 10,700 linear square feet of sidewalk remain to be built, which would require roughly another \$1.7 million CMAQ award. The parties are hopeful of funding approval in light of the MRMPO's CMAQ carryover (though this amount remains to be clarified by ODOT) and the fact that the other active CMAQ projects are for Josephine County Transit, with funding already secured.

Discussion revealed no objections to the additional funding request, so Grants Pass will bring an application and formal proposal to the MPO for consideration.

10. Adjournment 51:46 – 51:55

2:20 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings

MRMPO Policy Committee | April 19, 2018 | 2:30 p.m.

MRMPO TAC | May 3, 2018 | 1:30 p.m.