



**AGENDA**  
**Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Policy Committee**

**Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026**

**Time: 2:30 p.m.**

**Join In-Person**

**Location:** Council Chambers, Gold Hill City Hall, 420 6th Ave, Gold Hill, OR

**Transit:** Paratransit services are available for qualified individuals.

**Contact:** RVCOG: 541-423-1375

**Or via Zoom**

**Meeting ID:** 845 5578 6528

**Phone #:** +1 669 444 9171

**Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84555786528>

**Website:** [www.mrmppo.org](http://www.mrmppo.org)

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT RVCOG, 541-664-6674. 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE IS PREFERABLE, AND WILL ENABLE US TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS.

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

**Consent Agenda**

**2. Review / Approve Minutes Chair**

Attachment: [#1 MRMPO Policy Meeting Draft Minutes 03/19/2026](#)

**Public Hearing**

**3. 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program Ryan MacLaren**

**Background:** The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a plan developed annually by the MRMPO to describe its proposed work activities for the fiscal year, beginning July 1. The program describes how the MRMPO uses federal, state and local planning funds to fulfill federal and state metropolitan planning requirements.

Attachments and [#2 2026-2027 UPWP](#)

Link to Website: [#3 Staff Memo: UPWP 2026 - 2027](#)

Action Requested: *Approval of the 26-27 UPWP*



## Action Items

### 4. RVACT Alternate Member

Kelsey Sharp

Background: Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT) is an advisory group chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC). They address all aspects of transportation with a primary focus on the state transportation system.

MRMPO's current voting member is Wade Elliott, and TAC member Lily Morgan has volunteered to be the alternate voting member.

Website Link: [#4 RVACT Website](#)

Action Requested: *Appointment of Lily Morgan as the alternate voting member*

## Discussion Items

### 5. DRAFT 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Yazeed Alrashdi

Background: Every three years the MRMPO is required to develop the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is used to prioritize projects in the MPO area over the short-term and is the mechanism by which funds are committed to specific surface transportation projects.

Link to Website: [#5 Draft 2027-2030 TIP](#)  
[#6 TIP Open House](#)

### 6. Support Letters for the BASICS Act H.R. 7437

Ryan Maclaren

Background: The *BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act (H.R. 7437)* updates federal transportation programs to reflect how infrastructure actually works on the ground. It directs funding to where people travel, where projects are ready, and where safety outcomes matter most.

The Policy Committee is being asked to review and comment on the letters to our Congressional delegation. This item will be brought back for official approval.

Attachments: [#7 Additional Resources](#)  
[#8 Letters of Support](#)

### 7. Public Comment

Chair

## Regular Updates

### 8. MRMPO Update

Ryan MacLaren

### 9. Other Business / Local Business

Chair

Opportunity for MRMPO member jurisdictions to talk about transportation planning projects



**10. Adjournment**

**Chair**

<b>Scheduled Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
MRMPO TAC	Grants Pass City Hall	April 2, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO CAC	Grants Pass City Hall	April 9, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO Policy Meeting	Rogue River City Hall	April 16, 2026	2:30 p.m.

All meetings are available in-person and online via Zoom unless otherwise noted.



**Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Attendees:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Melia Biedscheid, Vice Chair	Gold Hill	855-1525
Kathleen Krohn	Grants Pass	450-6000
Bradley Clark	Grants Pass	450-6000
Wade Elliott, Chair	Grants Pass	450-6000
Pam VanArsdale, Vice Chair	Rogue River	660-4414
Randy Sparacino	Jackson County	774-6117
Scott Chancey	Josephine County	474-5460
Mike Baker	ODOT	957-3658

Alternate Members	Organization	Phone Number
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Staff	Organization	Phone Number
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Kelsey Sharp	RVCOG	423-1375
Yazeed Alrashdi	RVCOG	423-1378

Interested Parties	Organization
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Thomas Guerava ODOT

**MRMPO Policy Committee Minutes – Thursday, March 19, 2026**

[Agenda Packet](#)

[Meeting Audio](#)

**1. Call to Order at 2:30 P.M. / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00 – 01:09**

Quorum: 5 Members Present

**2. Review / Approve Minutes 01:09 – 01:55**

**01:28** Pam VanArsdale moved to approve the February 19, 2026, MRMPO Policy Committee Meeting Minutes with corrections. Seconded by Randy Sparacino. No further discussion.  
 Motion Passed by voice vote. Yes: Melia Biedscheid, Kathleen Krohn, Bradley Clark, Wade Elliott, Pam VanArsdale, Randy Sparacino, Scott Chancey, and Mike Baker.  
 No: None.

## Public Hearing

### 3. Amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program 01:55 – 09:25

Chair Wade Elliott opened the Public Hearing.

*No public comments received.*

Chair Wade Elliott closed the Public Hearing.

**09:01** Pam VanArsdale moved to approve the 2024-2027 TIP amendment as presented.

Seconded by Mike Baker.

No further discussion.

Motion Passed by voice vote. Yes: Melia Biedscheid, Kathleen Krohn, Bradley Clark, Wade Elliott, Pam VanArsdale, Randy Sparacino, Scott Chancey, and Mike Baker.

No: None.

## Action Items

### 4. Ride the Rogue Sponsorship 09:25 – 13:00

**12:19** Pam VanArsdale moved to sponsor Ride the Rogue 2026 at the Gold Level at \$3000.

Seconded by Kathleen Krohn.

No further discussion.

Motion Passed by voice vote. Yes: Melia Biedscheid, Kathleen Krohn, Wade Elliott, Pam VanArsdale, Randy Sparacino, Scott Chancey, and Mike Baker. No: None.

Recuse: Bradley Clark.

### 5. RVACT Voting and Alternate Membership 13:00 – 22:20

**21:18** Pam VanArsdale moved to appoint Wade Elliott as the voting member for the MRMPO on the RVACT, and to request an alternate from the Technical Advisory Committee. Seconded by Mike Baker.

No further discussion.

Motion Passed by voice vote. Yes: Melia Biedscheid, Kathleen Krohn, Bradley Clark, Wade Elliott, Pam VanArsdale, Randy Sparacino, Scott Chancey, and Mike Baker.

No: None.

## Discussion Items

### 6. 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program DRAFT 22:20 – 30:05



**7. Public Comment 30:05 – 30:10**

*No comments received.*

**Regular Updates**

**8. MPO Planning Update 30:10 – 32:28**

*Provided by Ryan MacLaren regarding the 2026-2027 UPWP and 2027-2030 TIP timelines.*

**9. Other Business / Local Business 32:28 – 01:02:50**

*Updates from ODOT, Jackson County, Rogue River, Josephine County, Grants Pass.*

**10. Adjournment**

3:34 p.m.

Scheduled Meeting	Location	Date	Time
MRMPO TAC	Grants Pass City Hall	April 2, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO CAC	Grants Pass City Hall	April 9, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO Policy Meeting	Gold Hill City Hall	April 16, 2026	2:30 p.m.



**Middle Rogue  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Regional Transportation Planning**

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**DATE:** April 9, 2026  
**TO:** MRMPO Policy Committee  
**FROM:** Ryan MacLaren, Planning Program Director  
**SUBJECT:** UPWP 2026 - 2027

The following is a brief summary of what has changed between the 25-26 UPWP and the 26-27 UPWP.

Funding -

25-26 UPWP	26-27 UPWP
PL - \$191,451.42	PL - \$192,189.76
2024 PL Savings – \$168,728.58	2025 PL Savings - \$209,927.41
OMPOC Return - \$15,000	
2.5% set aside - \$4,959.18	2.5% set aside - \$4,977.32
2.5% Savings - \$8,175.97	2.5% Savings - \$2,304.49
5303 - \$68,869.66	5303 – \$67,766.08
5303 Savings - \$8,175.97	5303 Savings - \$109,804.28
Match Obligation - \$25,931.31	Match Obligation - \$31,322.21
Total Budget - \$502,771.83	Total Budget - \$586,969.34

- Task 1.1 has been reduced since we have a clearer federal understanding on which projects will move forward.
- Task 1.3 has been increased for more public engagement
- Task 2.1 has been reduced slightly since we adopt the 27-30 TIP this year, but also has a buffer since we don't know how ODOT's new CIP process will work.
- Task 3.2 has been reduced since the RTP was adopted in 2024.
- Task 4.1 has been increased since we begin the Title VI plan this year.
- Task 4.2 has been increased since to gather information for Title VI and model update.
- Over all the 26-27 budget is \$84,197.51 more than the 25-26 budget.

## BASICS Act (HR 7437) Additional Resources

Click any of the links below to learn more about the ***Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success Act***

- ✓ Introduction to the BASICS Act

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e4ce2c88c9c84cb3b674fd06aed5e8d6>

- ✓ BASICS Act One Pager Overview

[https://ampo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/BASICS-Leg-One-Pager\\_2026\\_2.10.25.pdf](https://ampo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/BASICS-Leg-One-Pager_2026_2.10.25.pdf)

- ✓ BASICS Act Section by Section

<https://ampo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/BASICS-Section-by-Section-2.10.2026.pdf>

- ✓ BASICS Act Bill Text

<https://ampo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Bill-Text-BASICS-Act.pdf>



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April 3, 2026

The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Congressman 2nd District  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bentz,

On behalf of the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO), I urge you to support and co-sponsor H.R.7437, the BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act, introduced by Representatives McDonald Rivet and Bresnahan.

The MRMPO helps direct federal transportation funding to the urbanized areas in Jackson and Josephine Counties, the cities of Grants Pass, Rogue River, and Gold Hill, Josephine Community Transit (JCT), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), to improve safety, reduce congestion, and support economic growth for over 63,000 residents within the MRMPO planning area. What the BASICS Act does:

- Strengthens regional planning and uses federal dollars wisely. Created by Congress, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible for developing fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) that identify local priority projects that meet federal performance goals. The BASICS Act increases Metropolitan Planning (PL) funding so MPOs can meet growing federal requirements and deliver stronger plans and better project selection that reflects long-term community needs.
- Delivers regional priorities faster. The BASICS Act accelerates delivery of these regionally supported projects by increasing funding for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. As the most flexible federal transportation formula program, STBG allows states and regions to move projects forward efficiently and deliver tangible benefits for local businesses, workers, and communities in every congressional district.
- Ensures transparency and collaboration. Federal transportation dollars must be accountable to taxpayers. The BASICS Act improves transparency by reinforcing collaboration across federal, state, regional, and local partners to ensure that local voices are heard and transportation investments reflect what communities in the Grants Pass area need most.
- Focuses on road safety. With nearly 100 roadway deaths each day, the BASICS Act increases and protects funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). It also ensures that 25 percent of HSIP funds are delivered through MPOs for proven safety projects that build on the success of the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

- Invests in repairing locally owned bridges. Counties own 38 percent of U.S. bridges. The BASICS Act ensures bridge funding reflects this reality by directing resources proportionally to locally owned bridges in each state. This means more support for repairing the worst-condition bridges in our communities.

The BASICS Act is supported by the Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition, representing more than 25,000 counties, cities, towns, MPOs, regional councils, and economic development organizations. Coalition members include the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). This broad coalition reflects the nationwide recognition that local and regional governments must have a stronger voice and better tools in shaping federal transportation policy.

There is nothing more basic than local roads and bridges. By supporting the BASICS Act, you will help ensure that cities, counties, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, including the MRMPO, have the resources they need to deliver transportation systems that connect our neighborhoods, support our local economies and serve our residents every single day.

I ask you to reach out to the cosponsors of this bill, Representatives McDonald Rivet and Bresnahan to discuss how you can help support the BASICS Act in the next federal surface transportation reauthorization.

Sincerely,

Wade Elliot  
Chair, MRMPO Policy Committee



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Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Regional Transportation Planning**

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April 3, 2026

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Senator  
U.S. Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

On behalf of the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO), I urge you to support and co-sponsor H.R.7437, the BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act, introduced by Representatives McDonald Rivet and Bresnahan.

The MRMPO helps direct federal transportation funding to the urbanized areas in Jackson and Josephine Counties, the cities of Grants Pass, Rogue River, and Gold Hill, Josephine Community Transit (JCT), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), to improve safety, reduce congestion, and support economic growth for over 63,000 residents within the MRMPO planning area. What the BASICS Act does:

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I ask you to reach out to the cosponsors of this bill, Representatives McDonald Rivet and Bresnahan to discuss how you can introduce a bipartisan Senate companion bill. Thank you for your leadership and consideration. Strengthening regional planning and empowering local decision makers is essential to creating a safer, more connected, and economically prosperous future.

Sincerely,

Wade Elliot  
Chair, MRMPO Policy Committee



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April 3, 2026

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Senator  
U.S. Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

On behalf of the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO), I urge you to support and co-sponsor H.R.7437, the BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act, introduced by Representatives McDonald Rivet and Bresnahan.

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Wade Elliot  
Chair, MRMPO Policy Committee