



Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Join In-Person

Location: Council Chambers, Rogue River City Hall, 133 Broadway St, Rogue River, OR

Transit: Served by JCT Route #100. 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

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 04/16/2026](#)

Public Hearing

3. 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: [#2 Draft 2027-2030 TIP](#)
[#3 TIP Open House](#)

Action Requested: Approval of the 2027-2030 TIP



Action Items

4. 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 works on the ground. It directs funding to where people travel, where projects are ready, and where safety outcomes matter most.

Staff is proposing to send three letters of support to our Congressional delegation.

Attachments: [#4 Additional Resources](#)
[#5 Letters of Support](#)

Action Requested: Approval of chair’s signature on letters

Discussion Items

5. Public Comment **Chair**

Regular Updates

6. MRMPO Update **Ryan MacLaren**

7. Other Business / Local Business **Chair**

Opportunity for MRMPO member jurisdictions to talk about transportation planning projects

8. Adjournment **Chair**

Scheduled Meeting	Location	Date	Time
MRMPO TAC	Grants Pass City Hall	June 4, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO CAC	Grants Pass City Hall	June 11, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO Policy Meeting	Grants Pass City Hall	June 18, 2026	2:30 p.m.

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



Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Attendees:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Melia Biedscheid, Vice Chair	Gold Hill	855-1525
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
Steve Lambert	Jackson County	

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

Interested Parties	Organization
Thomas Guerava	ODOT
Lesley Orr	CAC

MRMPO Policy Committee Minutes – Thursday, April 16, 2026

[Agenda Packet](#)

[Meeting Audio](#)

1. Call to Order at 2:35 P.M. / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00 – 01:29

Quorum: 5 Members Present. Items 5 and 6 were swapped.

2. Review / Approve Minutes 01:29 – 02:03

01:39 Pam VanArsdale moved to approve the March 19, 2026, MRMPO Policy Committee Meeting Minutes with corrections. Seconded by Randy Sparacino.

No further discussion.

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

Public Hearing

3. 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program 02:03 – 12:28

Chair Wade Elliott opened the Public Hearing.

No public comments received.

Chair Wade Elliott closed the Public Hearing.

12:03 Melia Biedscheid moved to approve the 2026-2027 UPWP with updated funding numbers. Seconded by Pam VanArsdale.

No further discussion.

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

Action Items

4. Ride the Rogue Sponsorship 09:25 – 13:27

12:54 Pam VanArsdale moved to appoint Lily Morgan as the alternate voting member for the MRMPO in RVACT. Seconded by Randy Sparacino.

No further discussion.

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

Discussion Items

5. Support Letter for the BASICS Act H.R. 7437 13:27 – 23:44

Items 5 and 6 were swapped from the agenda.

6. DRAFT 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program 23:44 – 27:24

Items 5 and 6 were swapped from the agenda.

7. Public Comment 27:24 – 28:07

Comments from Lesley Orr: Ride the Rogue is happening September 26, 2026. Go to ridetherogue.com for more information.

Regular Updates

8. MPO Planning Update 28:07 – 31:36

Provided by Ryan MacLaren with updates on populations of the MRMPO members, Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC), and Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).



9. Other Business / Local Business 31:36 – 01:02:50

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

10. Adjournment

3:25 p.m.

Scheduled Meeting	Location	Date	Time
MRMPO TAC	Grants Pass City Hall	May 7, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO CAC	Grants Pass City Hall	May 14, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO Policy Meeting	Rogue River City Hall	May 21, 2026	2:30 p.m.

DRAFT

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

- ✓ 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>



Middle Rogue
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regional Transportation Planning

Gold Hill • Grants Pass • Rogue River • Jackson County • Josephine County • Oregon Department of Transportation

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



Middle Rogue
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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Gold Hill • Grants Pass • Rogue River • Jackson County • Josephine County • Oregon Department of Transportation

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.

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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