



Summary Minutes
Middle Rogue MPO Citizens Advisory Committee
April 8, 2021

The following attended:

Voting Members	Representing	Phone Number
Lesley Orr, Vice Chair	Active Transportation	
Trent Carpenter, Chair	Freight	659-1005
David West	Grants Pass	659-9681
Judy Garrett	Grants Pass	659-9256
David Leverenz	Mass Transit	453-8535
Non-Voting Members	Representing	Phone Number
Staff	Representing	Phone Number
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Ryan MacLaren	RVCOG	423-1338
Kelsey Sharp	RVCOG	423-1375
Interested Parties	Representing	Phone Number

[MRMPO CAC April 8, 2021 Agenda Packet](#)

[Full meeting recording: 04/08/2021](#)

1. **Call to Order / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00–01:08**
 2:00 p.m. | Active Transportation, Freight, Josephine County, Mass Transit, ODOT
2. **Review/Approve Minutes 01:08–02:18**

01:26 | *David Leverenz motioned the approval of the March 11, 2021 MRMPO Citizens Advisory Committee minutes as presented. Seconded by Lesley Orr.*

No further discussion.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Action Items

3. Covid-19 Funding for MPOs 02:18–20:10

The MRMPO will be getting around \$800,000 in Covid-19 relief funding. These funds are to be treated like STBG funds. There are extra things that can be done with the funds that STBG cannot usually go to, such as paying back lost wages.

With that being said, the State is proposing an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (the agency responsible for distributing these funds to the states) to offer a different distribution strategy. In essence the state of Oregon would take all of the funds to pay back towards the \$225 million dollar loss in gas tax revenue – thus allowing the Federal government to fulfill its obligation under the law vis a vis funding distribution – and freeing up the state to then distribute State funds to the MPOs and to those counties and cities not in MPO areas. This would effectively “wash the funds” of any federal restrictions, requirements, or prohibitions. This agreement, should it be sanctioned, would therefore provide the two MPOs with significant funding without any restrictions placed on the use of said funds. This will be a serious and ongoing deliberation at both MPOs as to how best to expend these monies.

10:15 | *Question from Trent Carpenter: How likely is it the deal will go through as discussed?*

It is extremely likely. The State is looking at this deal very favorably. This would make sense for both the State and Federal Government.

12:04 | *Question from David Leverenz: How are the funds being distributed? Grants Pass is getting more than Josephine County. Is it through population or something else?*

If the MPO did not exist, the money the MPO is getting would be split between Grants Pass the city and Josephine County. But, because the MPO includes some of Josephine County and a portion of Jackson County, the MPO is receiving more funds. To a certain degree it is determined by population.

12:04 | *Question from David West: Do we know how the current infrastructure Bill going through Congress will affect how the funds are available down the road?*

Currently, the bill is about 2.4 trillion. Of that amount, around a third will be going to traditional infrastructure. This is in line with how much was allocated the most recent bill, The FAST Act.

4. Earmarks from Possible New Transportation/Infrastructure Bill 20:10–30:05

There was an email sent out mid-March for the different jurisdictions to think of possible projects for the earmarks. Grants Pass requested the South Y project to be addressed. The House Infrastructure and Transportation Committee requested that all projects be in the TIP or STIP or must be amended within a reasonable amount of time. The Earmarks will require a local match.

Discussion Items

5. Public Comment 30:05–30:15

No comment

Regular Updates

6. MPO Planning Update

Update was done with both of the action items.

7. Other Business / Local Business 30:15–35:14

8. Adjournment

2:32 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings:

MRMPO Citizens Advisory Committee | May 13, 2021 | 2:00 p.m.
MRMPO Technical Advisory Committee | May 06, 2021 | 1:30 p.m.
MRMPO Policy Committee | April 15, 2021 | 2:30 p.m.