



Summary Minutes
Middle Rogue MPO Policy Committee
April 15, 2021

The following attended:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Jessica Simpson	Gold Hill	885-1525
Valerie Lovelace, Chair	Grants Pass	479-0952
Rick Riker	Grants Pass	479-7333
Pam VanArsdale, Vice Chair	Rogue River	660-4414
Robert Brandes	Josephine County	474-5460
Mike Baker	ODOT	957-3658
Alternate Voting Members Present	Organization	Phone Number
Wade Elliot	Grants Pass	On File
Staff	Organization	Phone Number
Karl Welzenbach	RVCOG	423-1360
Interested Parties	Organization	Phone Number
Lelsie Orr	Bike/Ped	
Art Anderson	ODOT	
Elijah Overlander	ODOT	

- **Meeting recording:** [April 15, 2021 MRMPO Policy Committee Meeting Recording](#)
- [04/15/2021 MRMPO Policy Committee Agenda Packet](#)

1. Call to Order / Introductions/ Review Agenda | 00:00 – 01:22
 2:32 p.m. | *Quorum:* 5 voting members, regardless of jurisdiction

2. Review / Approve Minutes | 01:22 – 01:55

01:40 | *Mike Baker moved that the Policy Committee approve the March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Pam VanArsdale.*

No further discussion.

Motion passed with none apposed.

Action Items

3. Ear Marks from Possible New Transportation/Infrastructure Bill | 02:10 – 20:21

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.

19:42 | *Rob Brandes moved to approve the Chair signing the Letter of Support from the MPO. Seconded by Rick Riker.*

No further discussion.

Motion passed with none apposed.

Discussion Items

4. Covid-19 Funding for MPOs | 20:21 – 40:42

The MRMPO will be getting \$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.

27:56 | *Comment from Rob Brandes: Discussions between Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) have shown if the deal goes through, the money will have to stay transportation related. There has been some concern the counties would be able to use this money for other projects unrelated to transportation.*

This has not been confirmed yet.

5. Public Comments | 40:42 – 53:17

Provided by Leslie Orr in regard to Ride the Rogue.

Regular Updates

6. MPO Planning Update | 51:17 – 54:45

Provided by Karl Welzenbach.

7. Other Business / Local Business | 54:45 – 58:40

Updates from Josephine County, Grants Pass, and Gold Hill.

8. Adjournment | 58:40

Valerie Lovelace, Chair, adjourned meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Scheduled Meetings:

MRMPO Policy Committee | May 20, 2021 | 2:30 p.m.

MRMPO Technical Advisory Committee | May 06, 2021 | 1:30 p.m.

MRMPO Citizen Advisory Committee | May 08, 2021 | 2:00 p.m.