



AGENDA

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Join In-Person

Location: Council Chambers, Rogue River City
Hall, 133 Broadway St, Rogue River, OR,
97537

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 06/18/2026](#)

Public Hearing

3. Regional Transportation Plan Amendment

Yazeed Alrashdi

Background: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a multi-modal transportation document of the existing plan designed to meet the anticipated 25-year transportation needs within the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO) planning area boundary.

Chapter 5- Existing Transportation System has a proposed amendment to add the Grants Pass to Rogue River Greenway Multimodal plan.

The 21-day Public Hearing Notice was sent out on or before Thursday July 30th, 2026.

Attachments: [#2 Draft RTP Chapter 5](#) (Online Link)
[#3 RTP Tech Memo](#)
[#4 Grants Pass to Rogue River Multimodal Plan](#) (Online Link)

Action Requested: Approval of the amendment



AGENDA

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

Action Items

4. BASICS Act H.R. 7437 and BUILD America 250 Act H.R. 8870

Ryan MacLaren

Background: The *BASICS Act (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success)* 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.

The *Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act* (BUILD America 250 Act) is a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and invests in America's most critical surface transportation infrastructure and programs for the next five years, including our roads and bridges, effective transit and rail transportation, and highway and motor carrier safety programs.

The TAC and CAC have recommended the Policy Committee approve the Chair signing the letters.

Attachments: [#5 Additional Resources on Each Act](#)
[#6 Letter of Support](#)
[#7 Congress Bill Tracker for BASICS Act](#) (Online Link)
[#8 Congress Bill Tracker for BUILD America 250 Act](#) (Online Link)

Action Requested: Recommendation to the Policy Committee

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	September 3, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO CAC	Grants Pass City Hall	September 10, 2026	1:30 p.m.
MRMPO Policy Meeting	Grants Pass City Hall	September 17, 2026	2:30 p.m.

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



SUMMARY MINUTES

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026

Attendees:

Voting Members	Organization	Phone Number
Melia Biedscheid	Gold Hill	855-1525
Kathleen Krohn	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
Colene Martin	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
Interested Parties	Organization	
Thomas Guerava	ODOT	

MRMPO Policy Committee Minutes – Thursday, June 18, 2026

[Agenda Packet](#)

[Meeting Audio](#)

1. Call to Order at 2:32 P.M. / Introductions / Review Agenda 00:00 – 01:57

Quorum: 5 Members Present.

2. Review / Approve Minutes 01:57 – 02:25

02:03 Pam VanArsdale moved to approve the May 21, 2026, MRMPO Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mike Baker.

No further discussion.

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

Public Hearing

3. 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program 02:25 – 09:52

Chair Wade Elliott opened the Public Hearing.

No public comments received.

Chair Wade Elliott closed the Public Hearing.

- 09:05** Pam VanArsdale moved to approve the 2027-2030 TIP as presented. Seconded by Kathleen Krohn.
No further discussion.
Motion Passed by voice vote. Yes: Melia Biedscheid, Kathleen Krohn, Wade Elliott, Pam VanArsdale, Randy Sparacino, Colene Martin, and Mike Baker. No: None.

Discussion Items

4. BUILD America 250 Act 09:52 – 36:23

5. Public Comment 36:23 – 36:28

No comments received.

Regular Updates

6. MPO Planning Update 36:28 – 39:49

Provided by Ryan MacLaren with updates the Gold Hill TSP and the Title VI Plan update.

7. Other Business / Local Business 39:49 – 01:09:03

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

8. Adjournment

3:40 p.m.

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



Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization

Regional Transportation Planning

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

DATE: July 30, 2026
TO: MRMPO Member Jurisdictions
FROM: Yazeed Alrashdi, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: 2024-2049 MRMPO RTP Amendment

This memorandum highlights the details for the Amendment of the 2024-2049 MRMPO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). As of last year, the **Grants Pass to Rogue River Multimodal Plan** was completed – as of April of 2025 – the plan goes over a detailed study on the best alignment for the Rogue River Greenway connection between the City of Rogue River to the City of Grants Pass.

After the completion of the **Grants Pass to Rogue River Multimodal Plan**, the region is gearing towards moving forward with the next steps to build the connections from the Depot Street Bridge in the City of Rogue River to the eastern edge of the City of Grants Pass. However, the adoption process for the plan is not completed and needs to be completed in order for the project to be able to go after funding sources.

According to Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the plan should be adopted by Josephine and Jackson Counties and the Cities of Rogue River and Grants Pass. Please note, City of Rogue River did adopt the Plan as an amendment to the Rogue River TSP by Ordinance No. 25-441-O on September 25th, 2025.

Also, ODOT did recommend that the MRMPO adopt the final Plan. MRMPO staff amended the 2024-2049 RTP to reference the Plan in RTP. The updated language can be found in **Chapter 5** under **Multimodal Infrastructure Section**. Also, the full Plan is attached in **Appendix H** as part of RTP Appendices.



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

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Date: June 4, 2026
To: MRMPO Technical Advisory Committee
Subject: Basics Act & Build America 250 Act Provisions

Both the BASICS Act (H.R. 7437) and the BUILD America 250 Act contain provisions that the MRMPO TAC Committee can consider supporting without specifically showing support for particular legislation.

BASICS Act – Key Provisions

- Increases Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding, the most flexible federal program for MPOs. [National League of Cities](#)
- Strengthens MPO authority by increasing local/regional access to federal funds. [AMPO | Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#)
- Improve delivery of regionally prioritized TIP projects by reducing administrative delays. [National League of Cities](#)
- Expands bridge repair funding, including proportional funding for locally owned bridges. [National League of Cities](#)
- Strengthens the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and prevents states from transferring safety dollars away from safety. [National League of Cities](#)
- Addresses the mismatch between local responsibility (75% of roads) and federal funding (~16%). [ArcGIS StoryMaps](#)

BUILD America 250 Act (House Surface Transportation Reauthorization)

- Five year, \$580B surface transportation reauthorization (FY 2027–2031). [Infrastructure Report Card](#)
- Largest-ever investment in bridges, including a revised bridge formula and a new Bridge Completion Program. [Holland & Knight](#)
- 90% of highway funding delivered by formula, increasing predictability for MPO planning. [American Public Transportation Association](#)
- Creates new revenue for the Highway Trust Fund (EV and PHEV registration fees). [Infrastructure Report Card](#)



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- Streamlines NEPA and project delivery, including categorical exclusion clarifications and single lead agency designation. [Infrastructure Report Card](#)
- Invests in transit and rail, including \$87.6B for FTA and \$31.1B for Amtrak. [Holland & Knight](#)
- Creates new discretionary programs, including Surface Transportation Accelerator Grants and expanded Safe Streets funding. [Holland & Knight](#)
- Establishes the first federal framework for autonomous commercial motor vehicles. [American Public Transportation Association](#)



Middle Rogue
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August 4, 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), we write to express our support for two federal transportation proposals now under consideration in Congress: the **BASICS Act (H.R. 7437)** and the **BUILD America 250 Act**. Both bills advance priorities that are essential to metropolitan planning organizations and to the local jurisdictions we serve.

As you know, MPOs are responsible for coordinating regional transportation planning, programming federal funds, and ensuring that investments reflect local needs, safety priorities, and long-range strategies. These responsibilities are increasingly difficult to meet under current funding constraints, aging infrastructure, and rising project delivery costs. The provisions in these two bills would meaningfully strengthen our ability to deliver safe, efficient, multimodal transportation systems.

The **BASICS Act** addresses long-standing challenges faced by MPOs and local governments by:

- Expanding flexible STBG funding, which is the backbone of regional multimodal investment.
- Increasing direct MPO access to federal funds and improving alignment between federal programs and regional priorities.
- Strengthening the Highway Safety Improvement Program, ensuring safety funds remain dedicated to safety outcomes.
- Providing additional support for locally owned bridges, which make up the majority of our region's bridge inventory.

These provisions would help our MPO deliver projects more efficiently and address critical safety and infrastructure needs.

The **BUILD America 250 Act** represents a significant step toward long-term federal transportation stability. We are particularly supportive of:

- The bill's predictable formula funding, which strengthens TIP and long-range plan financial constraint.
- The largest-ever federal investment in bridges includes programs that directly benefit local jurisdictions.

- NEPA streamlining provisions that reduce delays and improve project delivery timelines.
- Expanded funding for transit, rail, and safety, which aligns with our region's multimodal and Vision Zero goals.

These elements would allow our region to accelerate high-priority projects and maintain a state of good repair across our transportation network.

Both the BASICS Act and the BUILD America 250 Act strengthen local decision-making, improve safety outcomes, and provide the stable, flexible funding necessary for MPOs to meet federal performance expectations. For these reasons, the MRMPO Policy Committee respectfully urges your support for these two important pieces of legislation.

We appreciate your continued leadership on transportation issues and welcome the opportunity to provide additional regional context or technical information as these bills advance.

Sincerely,

Wade Elliott
Chair, MRMPO Policy Committee



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Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regional Transportation Planning

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August 4, 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), we write to express our support for two federal transportation proposals now under consideration in Congress: the **BASICS Act (H.R. 7437)** and the **BUILD America 250 Act**. Both bills advance priorities that are essential to metropolitan planning organizations and to the local jurisdictions we serve.

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August 4, 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), we write to express our support for two federal transportation proposals now under consideration in Congress: the **BASICS Act (H.R. 7437)** and the **BUILD America 250 Act**. Both bills advance priorities that are essential to metropolitan planning organizations and to the local jurisdictions we serve.

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