



Meeting Minutes

BMPO Policy Board

Location: Baney Conference Room (ODOT Region 4 Headquarters, Building M)
63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon
Date: March 31, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Prepared by: ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

In Attendance

Members

1. Chair Ariel “Ari” Méndez, Bend City Councilor
2. Vice Chair Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner
3. Emerald Shirley, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Interim Central Oregon and Lower John Day Area Manager

Nonvoting Members

1. Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET) Director

Member Alternates

1. David Abbas, City of Bend, joined at 1:09 p.m.

BMPO Staff and Other Attendees

1. Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager
2. Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner
3. Kelli Kennedy, BMPO Program Coordinator
4. Doug Pigman, Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS), left at 1:28 p.m.
5. Greg Bryant, member of the public
6. Stacie Fritz, member of the public
7. Chris Doty, Deschutes County, joined at 1:14 p.m.

Notes

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Méndez called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. with a quorum established.

2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Manager Deke reviewed the meeting guidelines.

3. Public Comment

Greg Bryant, Deschutes River Woods (DRW) resident, suggested redirecting about \$30,000 to \$35,000 of the State Highway Funds (SHF) allocated to Bend toward DRW, which had about 34 miles of roadway within the BMPO boundary. He noted Deschutes County had instituted a moratorium on paving county roads in 2009.

4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced: February 13, 2026, BMPO Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment A in agenda packet).
February 20, 2026, BMPO Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment B in agenda packet).

Motion 1: Phil Chang moved approval of the February 20, 2026, Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Emerald Shirley seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0. (Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Shirley (ODOT). Nays: None.)

The Board proceeded to Agenda Item 7 at this time.

5. Fiscal Years 2026 – 2027 (FY26 – FY27) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Midcycle Amendment

Materials referenced: A link was provided to the [BMPO Work Program and Budget webpage](#).

This item was addressed directly after Agenda Item 7.

Senior Planner Napoli highlighted FY26 accomplishments and reviewed priorities and major work activities for FY27.

Manager Deke shared the schedule and estimated funding anticipated for FY27, noting that an MPO funding distribution formula update had benefited the BMPO. ODOT had historically provided 100 percent of the match for PL funds, but match funds provided for FY26 and FY27 were reduced to 50 percent and in the future, match funds could potentially be reduced to zero if a transportation funding package was not passed. He outlined the FY27 Draft Budget Summary.

The Board discussed potentially allocating SHFs to DRW. Board members wanted information about the type of work that could be accomplished in DRW using the funding and requested that Staff look into developing criteria or a reasonable basis for allocating SHF funds to DRW roads. The County is not considering lifting the moratorium on paving county roads; however, DRW road improvements could potentially be facilitated by establishing a special road district or including a DRW project in a Transportation System Plan (TSP) or Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP). The Board was scheduled to revisit FY28 – FY30 SHF awards at the Policy Board meeting in June.

Staff confirmed the Policy Board was scheduled to adopt the FY26 – FY27 UPWP amendments at the April meeting.

6. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment

Materials referenced: Links were provided to the **BMPO MTIP webpage** and the **Transportation News Release** for the proposed amendment.

Program Coordinator Kennedy presented an amendment to the 2024 – 2027 MTIP adding the 5310 STBG Formula Gap Funding project for Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) by moving funds from two approved Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) bucket-fund projects. Public notice had been provided, and no public comments were received.

Bob Townsend explained amendments to reallocate bucket-funds were commonly due to federal funding formula adjustments. These are “5310” funds that are used to enhance mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Motion 2: Emerald Shirley moved to approve the proposed amendment to the 2024 – 2027 MTIP, as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0. (Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Shirley (ODOT), Abbas (City of Bend). Nays: None.)

The Board proceeded to Agenda Item 8 at this time.

7. Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS) COVID Relief Program Award Update

This item was addressed directly after Agenda Item 4.

Senior Planner Napoli stated BLS had received a \$125,000 COVID Relief funding award from the BMPO for a multi-use trail near High Desert Middle School. She and Doug Pigman had met with the Community Development Planner to clarify siting for the multi-use path amidst ongoing area developments.

Doug Pigman reviewed existing path conditions and shared recommendations for improving each segment of the multi-use path, noting Safe Routes to School crossing considerations and potential to connect to the future Caldera Drive and a roundabout at Ferguson and 27th St which was still under design. He suggested adding the remaining \$10,000 of planning funding to the path construction budget for a total of about \$85,000, noting that as bids were received from contractors, the project would be scaled to fit the budget.

Questions were addressed about hesitating to invest in correcting the steep incline near Ferguson Rd due to cost and the possibility that the path could be torn out and redesigned in the future; the unlikelihood of another vehicle road being developed north of Hearthstone Lane; spending most of the funding on the south end of the path, and extending improvements north of Hearthstone Lane as far as finances allowed; BLS’ previous proposals for a raised crossing or rerouting the path to cross on Diamondback Lane, further from the intersection; and Public Works Staff supporting the plan to stay flexible regarding the path’s north end while waiting for roundabout development at Ferguson Rd and 27th St.

The Board returned to Agenda Item 5 at this time.

8. Federal Transportation Legislation and Letter of Support

Materials referenced: BASICS Act overview memo (Attachment C in agenda packet).

BASICS Act draft support letter (Attachment D in agenda packet).

A link was provided to the **Local Officials in Transportation Coalition BASICS Act website.**

This item was addressed directly after Agenda Item 6.

Manager Deke stated Congress was considering several multi-year transportation funding proposals. He provided an overview of the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act, noting the proposal was supported by a coalition of national organizations which had requested cities, counties, and MPOs to submit letters of support to their respective congressional delegations.

Questions and comments were addressed about working on the backlog of existing bridge maintenance projects within the National Bridge Inventory, which included both overpasses and traditional bridges; the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) working to get more funding funneled directly to state DOTs for distribution; and the National Association of Counties' work to advocate for the BASICS Act and keep more local access to discretionary funding programs.

Emerald Shirley recused herself from the vote.

Motion 3: Phil Chang moved to approve the letter of support for the BASICS Act. David Abbas seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0 to 1.

(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Abbas (City of Bend). Nays: None. Abstain: Shirley (ODOT).)

9. Other Business

Bend TSAP update: Manager Deke reported a draft analysis of Bend's crash data for 2019 – 2023 would be posted later today and discussed at the upcoming Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on April 7, 2026. A link would be provided to Policy Board members for review.

Senior Planner Napoli described the TSAP update public engagement plan including an online open house, in-person events, and City open house events relating to street improvement.

Enforcement Cameras and Traffic Diverters: Chair Méndez stated cameras for red light and speed enforcement were beginning to operate in Bend, and warnings would be issued for one month before citations begin being issued in May. The City was installing traffic diverters on some greenway routes to prioritize foot and bicycle traffic and create a safe route for people using mobility scooters. He encouraged directing questions to City Council and noted there was a page on the Police Department's website called Automatic Traffic Enforcement Program with more information.

David Abbas noted a form was available online for public feedback regarding traffic diverters.

Policy Board member agenda item requests:

Board members requested more information be provided at a future meeting about the long-term effects of CET reinstating bus fares.

The next scheduled meeting of the Policy Board would be April 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Potential agenda topics were reviewed.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

Chair Méndez adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.



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