

Meeting Minutes



BMPO Bend Metropolitan
Planning Organization

BMPO Policy Board

Location: Baney Conference Room, Building M, ODOT Region 4
63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon

Date: March 15, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Policy Board Members

Chair Barb Campbell, Bend City Councilor

Vice-Chair Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner

Ariel "Ari" Mendez, Bend City Councilor

Bob Townsend, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 4 Area Manager

BMPO Staff and Other Attendees

Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager

Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner

Kelli Kennedy, BMPO Staff

Royce Kallerud, Connect Bend

Chris Doty, Deschutes County

Susanna Julber, City of Bend

Erik Fernandez, Oregon Wild

Brent Stinski, member of public

Robin Vora, member of public

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Campbell called the regular meeting to order at 12:09 p.m., with a quorum established.

2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Mr. Deke reviewed the meeting guidelines.

3. Public Comment

Erik Fernandez with Oregon Wild commented on the proposed Connect Bend footbridge, noting concerns with the location due to endangered species habitat and designation for section of river as state scenic waterway and wild and scenic river. Consideration of a downstream location was requested.

4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced: February 16, 2024, Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment A in agenda packet)

Motion 1: Councilor Mendez moved to approve the February 16, 2024, Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Chang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendments

Materials referenced: Public notice with a summary of the proposed amendments (Attachment B in agenda packet) and Public comment record (Attachment C in agenda packet).

Andrea Napoli presented three amendments to the MTIP – two new transit projects and one existing project with the construction phase being added – as requested by ODOT. One public comment was received, suggesting replacing some culverts with wildlife underpasses on Highway 20. In response, the MPO confirmed with State agencies that these culverts were not identified as barriers for fish and explained why no priority locations for wildlife crossings had been identified along the corridor. Clarification was provided on the culvert locations, restricted spending of statewide fix-it dollars targeted for repairing culverts or roadways, reasons for no screens, and the importance of replacing the culverts.

Motion 2: Councilor Mendez moved to approve the proposed amendments to 2024-27 MTIP as presented. Commissioner Chang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. Committee Stipend Policy Adoption

Materials referenced: Draft Committee Stipend Policy (Attachment D in agenda packet)

Tyler Deke presented the draft BMPO Committee Stipend Policy, providing background on development, purpose, enrollment eligibility, and stipend amounts and annual limits. The Board discussed whether to approve the policy retroactively to January 1, 2024. Clarification was provided on enrollment eligibility among BMPO committee members and on budgeting associated with administering the program.

Motion 3: Ariel Mendez moved to approve the Committee Stipend Policy retroactive to January 1, 2024, as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

7. 2023-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Proposed Amendments

Materials referenced: A link to the draft UPWP amendment was provided in the agenda.

Tyler Deke provided an update on upcoming 2023-2025 UPWP mid-cycle amendments that will be brought to the Board at the next meeting. The presentation included background information, key priorities, and significant changes to work programs and funding, with note that State Highway Funds are now directly received by the MPO for administering.

Clarification was provided regarding data sourcing for climate change planning. Discussion indicated appropriate steps for this year may be more focused on completing requirements to meet the deadline while a more in-depth analysis of findings could occur next year. There was emphasis on the importance of an inclusive and holistic approach, as much as possible within time constraints.

Opportunities for the MPO to collaborate with the Central Oregon Area Commission for Transportation (COACT) on the TSAP and with the County to potentially secure a consultant team to update the County TSAP and the Bend TSAP were discussed.

There was discussion of the Household Travel Survey, with note that it will provide opportunity to review multimodal data and that research efforts are underway to obtain more comprehensive data. Related future potential for forecasting bike/ped utilization was also discussed. Clarification was provided regarding data required to evaluate system development charge (SDC) methodologies.

8. Annual Obligation Report (2023)

Materials referenced: A link to the 2023 Annual Obligation Report was provided in the agenda.

Tyler Deke provided background and overview of the federally required Annual Obligation report, including the purpose of the report and a description of what it includes. Kelli Kennedy presented a summary of the annual obligation amounts, highlighting obligations by fund source and by project. It was noted that the report is for the federal fiscal year 2022-23 and that funding sources fluctuate annually.

9. Connect Bend

Materials referenced: A link to the Connect Bend website was provided in the agenda.

Royce Kallerud presented an overview of the proposed footbridge in southern Bend, including background, project details, results of various polls, and efforts to address the quality of access issue. Response to cited concerns regarding weakening river protections and habitat was provided. Interest in studies, including a traffic impact study, was noted. There was discussion on habitat considerations, mitigation needs for existing access, and potential future impacts. Local and non-local examples of comparative efforts and outcomes/findings were shared. Some support of a traffic study was indicated.

10. Other Business

Policy Board member agenda item requests: Chair Campbell provided a reminder that agenda item requests are welcome.

The next scheduled meeting of the Policy Board is April 19, 2024, at 12:00 pm.

Councilor Mendez reported that the City held an open house for the Bend Bikeway, noting modal filters would be part of the design. Evaluation of the modal filters was noted as a future agenda topic.

11. Public Comment

Robin Vora opposed the southern Bend footbridge, noting wildlife habitat considerations and potential impacts on National Forest and the scenic river, as well as various potential, resultant/associated costs.

Erik Fernandez noted there have been U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife concerns, shared his concerns about poll questions and lacking context provided to respondents, and stated that the section of river under consideration has a special designation that differs from examples cited in discussion.

12. Adjournment

Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Kelli Kennedy at kkennedy@bendoregon.gov or 541-693-2122. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.