

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: October 18, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by: ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

In Attendance

Policy Board Members

- Chair Barb Campbell, Bend City Councilor
- Vice-Chair Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner, left at 1:38 p.m.
- Ariel "Ari" Mendez, Bend City Councilor
- Omar Ahmed, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Oregon Area Manager

BMPO Staff and Other Attendees

- Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager
- Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner
- Kelli Kennedy, BMPO Staff
- Greg Bryant, BMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Janet Hruby, City of Bend
- David Abbas, City of Bend
- Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET)
- Chris Doty, Deschutes County
- Diane, member of the public
- Carl Shoemaker, member of the public

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Campbell called the regular meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. with a quorum established.

2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Manager Deke reviewed the meeting guidelines.

3. Public Comment

Chair Campbell called for public comment.

Greg Bryant encouraged the MPO to make a financial contribution to support the Deschutes County Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's annual summit.

Chair Campbell requested that Staff add a discussion on the possibility of sponsoring the summit to the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced: September 20, 2024 Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment A in the agenda packet)

Motion 1: Ariel Mendez moved approval of the September 20, 2024 Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.

5. City Procurement Procedures - Resolution

Materials referenced: Resolution 2024-06 (Attachment B in the agenda packet)

Manager Deke explained the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) designating the City of Bend as the administrative and fiscal agent for the MPO was silent on procurement procedures and Resolution 2024-06 would allow the MPO to use the City of Bend's procurement procedures.

Motion 2: Ariel Mendez moved to adopt Resolution 2024-06 authorizing the MPO to use the City of Bend's procurement policies and procedures. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.

The MPO addressed Agenda Items 7 and 8 at this time before returning to Agenda Item 6.

6. MPO Bylaws and Establishment IGA

Materials referenced: MPO Establishment IGA (Attachment C in the agenda packet)
MPO Bylaws (Attachment D in the agenda packet)

The MPO addressed this agenda item directly after Agenda Item 8.

Manager Deke led a discussion on potentially adding a member from Cascades East Transit (CET) to the Policy Board and updating the voting structure. The Board discussed concerns about the possibility of a Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) Board Member from outside of the Bend MPO area being appointed to the Board, noting it was more warranted for the CET Director or their designee to fill the position due to their local interest and expertise.

Bob Townsend, current COIC Transportation Director/CET Director, stated it was appropriate for the CET to have a voting seat on the MPO Board, although discretion would be held about

which issues the CET would vote on, and he noted the complexity of having a mixture of Staff members and elected officials working together on the MPO Board.

The Board discussed the language from the previous Bylaws regarding new transit districts and the importance of being specific about who could fill in for elected City or County MPO Board members as representatives of the public. There was consensus around including the CET Director on the Board and revisiting the matter if CET became a transit district.

Discussion continued regarding reorganizing the current MPO voting structure with favor given to the possibility of having only two City Council members on the Board and giving them each one vote, adding one more voting member from CET, maintaining an odd number for split decisions, and considering requiring a super majority vote to approve actions rather than a simple majority vote.

Concerns were expressed over the challenges of the unanimity requirement for making changes to the Bylaws document. Staff confirmed that decisions could be nullified in the future if needed, and the unanimity requirements for making changes to the Bylaws document could be revised to require only a super majority vote. There was further discussion on the process of appointing alternate voting members and only using Staff members with transportation expertise as alternates.

Manager Deke presented several other proposed changes to the MPO Bylaws. The Board discussed clarification of the MPO Manager's role including the authority to sign contracts for less than \$25,000; possibly increasing the quorum requirement to four Board members; the possibility of the two local residents serving on the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) also serving on the Budget Committee; allowing the MPO Chair the discretion to decide who can speak during meetings, allowing ex officio participation in discussions by TAC members; possibly receiving committee updates during the Public Comment period; having Staff provide a biannual financial update to the Policy Board; and amending the IGA establishing the MPO to include CET which would require approval by ODOT, the County Commission, the City Council, and the COIC Board.

The MPO addressed Agenda Item 9 at this time.

7. Bend Pedestrian Network Implementation Plan (PNIP)

Materials referenced: The Bend PNIP is available at

<https://www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/transportation-mobility/traffic-engineering/pedestrian-network-plan>

The MPO addressed this agenda item immediately following Agenda Item 5.

Janet Hruby presented the updates to Phase 1 of the citywide Pedestrian Master Plan including information on the expected timeline, new maintenance equipment, data analysis done by Kittelson & Associates to prioritize projects, and next steps.

Questions and comments from the Board were addressed about prioritizing snow clearing on roundabouts, bridges, and key bicycle and pedestrian routes during the winter; thanking the MPO for supporting the purchase of new road and snow maintenance equipment; increasing access to walksheds as a part of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) ; identifying and addressing barriers to walkshed access; the systems being used to prioritize projects; and addressing the higher risks in transportation safety in areas with lower living costs and other specific areas based on park and school locations and school boundaries.

8. Think Bike Workshop by Dutch Cycling Embassy – Outcomes and Next Steps

Janet Hruby talked about the visit from the Dutch Cycling Embassy in July 2023 and their efforts toward the Safe Streets Workshop including completing case studies and creating recommendations for the City of Bend. She elaborated on the recommendations and the actions currently being taken by the City to promote bicycle travel and safety.

The Board discussed the complexity around making bicycle travel and safety intuitive; creating a legal framework to support bicycle rights-of-way and under- or overcrossings; concerns about using system development charges (SDCs) to fund the expansion of walking or biking transportation systems; creating a quantifiable data methodology for SDCs; maintaining travel routes during the winter; embracing new technologies, such as electric bikes, training the public to navigate roundabouts safely, teaching young people to use bikes and public transit; the common goal between other cities and ODOT to reduce vehicle traffic; possibly working with the League of Oregon Cities Transportation Committee to support transportation legislation during the upcoming legislative session; specific language being used to create excitement or add clarity to definitions; and the possibility of creating consistent signage for neighborhood greenways.

The MPO returned to Agenda Item 6 at this time.

9. MPO Work Schedule, Strategic Plan, and Goals

This item was addressed directly after Agenda Item 6. The Board consented to move Agenda Item 9 to the next MPO meeting.

10. Other Business

Chair Campbell, Ari Mendez, and Omar Ahmed agreed to serve on the Subcommittee for reviewing Budget Committee applications.

Manager Deke reported that a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representative had given a high-level overview of what they were working on at the last OMPOC meeting. The Board agreed it would be helpful to hear from the FHWA representative again at an MPO meeting, especially for further information regarding Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grants.

Manager Deke noted a grant had been received to facilitate the Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) update, which would require input from the MPO Policy Board, the TAC, and the Bend City Council. The Board recommended presenting to the entire City Council or a subcommittee – the Chair and MPO Manager would work with the City Manager to determine which – as the City of Bend would be responsible for implementing the resulting outcomes of the TSAP update and the Capital Improvement Plans.

Chair Campbell reminded the Board members they could reach out to her or MPO Staff with agenda requests. The next scheduled meeting of the Policy Board would be November 15, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

11. Public Comment

Chair Campbell called for public comment. There was none.

12. Adjournment

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



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