



---

# MEETING MINUTES

## BMPO Policy Board

**Location:** Baney Conference Room (Oregon Department of Transportation [ODOT] Region 4 Headquarters, Building M), 63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon

**Date:** May 15, 2026

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Prepared by:** ABC Transcription Services, LLC

---

## In Attendance

- Voting Members
  - Chair Ariel "Ari" Méndez, City of Bend Councilor
- Non-voting Members
  - Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET) Director
- Voting Member Alternates
  - David Abbas, City of Bend
  - Abbey Driscoll, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
  - Blaine Wruck, Deschutes County
- Staff and Other Attendees
  - Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager
  - Shelly Bronson, City of Bend
  - Greg Bryant, member of the public
  - Susanna Julber, City of Bend
  - James Dorofi, member of the public
  - Stacie Fritz, member of the public
  - Haven Costello, member of the public

## Agenda Items

1. Call to Order & Introductions
2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines
3. Public Comment
4. Meeting Minutes
5. BMPO Committees – Community Member Reappointment
6. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment



7. Deschutes County Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) Update
8. Cascades East Transit (CET) Fare Implementation & Service Changes
9. US97 Safety Funding Support Letter
10. Other Business
11. Public Comment
12. Next Meeting & Adjournment

## Notes

### 1. Call to Order & Introductions

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

### 2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Tyler Deke reviewed the hybrid meeting guidelines.

### 3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

### 4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced

- Attachment A: Draft Budget Committee meeting minutes, March 17, 2026
- Attachment B: Draft Policy Board meeting minutes, March 31, 2026
- Attachment C: Draft Policy Board meeting minutes, April 17, 2026

**Motion 1:** Chair Méndez moved approval of the draft March 17, 2026, Budget Committee meeting minutes, the draft March 31, 2026, Policy Board meeting minutes, and the draft April 17, 2026, Policy Board meeting minutes as presented. David Abbas seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Abbas (City of Bend), Driscoll (ODOT), Wruck (Deschutes County). Nays: None.)

### 5. BMPO Committees – Community Member Reappointment

Materials referenced

- Attachment D: Budget Committee roster
- Attachment E: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) roster

The Board briefly discussed reappointing James Dorofi to serve on the BMPO Budget Committee and BMPO TAC.

**Motion 2:** David Abbas moved to reappoint James Dorofi for a second 3-year term on the BMPO Budget Committee and Technical Advisory Committee. Abbey Driscoll seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.



(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Abbas (City of Bend), Driscoll (ODOT), Wruck (Deschutes County). Nays: None.)

## 6. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment

Materials referenced

- Attachment F: Public Comment Log
- Link to the [Transportation News Release](#) for the proposed amendment

One amendment to the 2024-2027 MTIP was proposed involving changes to the project scope, construction phases, and length of the US97 Multi-Use Trail that will connect Lava Butte to the High Desert Museum and moving funding for the previously planned northern trail segment extending toward Knott Rd to a future project.

Abbey Driscoll explained that ODOT had delayed construction of the trail segment connecting to Knott Rd until 2028 to provide time to coordinate with Bend Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) and landowners regarding easements and trailhead connectivity at Knott Rd. She noted ODOT had received several public comments.

**Motion 3:** Chair Méndez moved approval of the proposed amendment to the 2024-2027 MTIP, as presented. Blaine Wruck seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0. (Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Abbas (City of Bend), Driscoll (ODOT), Wruck (Deschutes County). Nays: None.)

## 7. Deschutes County Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) Update

Materials referenced

- Link to the [Deschutes County TSAP](#)

Blaine Wruck presented an overview of the updated Deschutes County TSAP and noted rural county roads outside of city limits had been included as new study areas. He reviewed Crash Data Analysis results including fatality statistics, crash types, risky behaviors, and vulnerable roadway users. Network Screening was used to identify intersections and roadway segments with high-crash concentrations, help develop the High Injury Network (HIN), and prioritize safety projects and systemic treatments. School Area Safety Audits had been completed for several rural schools on county roads to identify site-specific safety improvements. He described non-infrastructure safety measures and public engagement efforts. The Board of County Commissioners had adopted the updated Deschutes County TSAP on March 18, 2026.

Questions were addressed about utilizing site-specific and systemic safety improvement tools; law enforcement being responsible to investigate whether distracted driving due to phone use was a contributing factor to a crash; excluding state highways from the TSAP study areas, but partnering with ODOT to improve intersections between state highways and county roads; effective tools to reduce speeding; potentially improving



transportation safety by improving transit; and comparing crash fatality data from the Deschutes County TSAP to crash fatality data available through the Oregon Transportation Safety Data Explorer.

## 8. Cascades East Transit (CET) Fare Implementation & Service Changes

Materials referenced

- Link to the [CET website](#)

Bob Townsend talked about current legislation that could impact transit including the possible transportation bill and amendments to SB 1544 language resulting in Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) becoming eligible to receive transit funding directly as a Qualified Entity. He gave an update on bus fare re-implementation including newly registered accounts, group passes, core service fare revenue, and the upcoming Try Transit Week incentive event in June 2026. He described CET system improvements, route expansions, and service changes made during the previous year or anticipated soon. He highlighted variables impacting CET's Budget and noted the Bend Transit Vision working group was meeting monthly. Additional data slides were included in the presentation for the meeting.

Questions were addressed about COIC anticipating saving 5 to 10 percent in administrative costs, or about \$500,000, due to becoming a Qualified Entity; peak hours for transit on 3<sup>rd</sup> St between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; grant funding for bus routes providing access to Sno-Parks and other recreational areas running out after summer 2026; CET's contract with Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort being renegotiated after expiring this year, potentially resulting in service reductions to recreational areas; and qualifications to apply for reduced bus fares.

## 9. US97 Safety Funding Support Letter

Materials referenced

- Attachment G: Deschutes, Jefferson, and Klamath Counties letter
- Attachment H: Draft BMPO letter

Tyler Deke said Deschutes, Jefferson, and Klamath County Commissions had approved and submitted a letter to the Oregon Legislature urging for safety funding for the segment of US97 between the California border and Madras, Oregon. BMPO Staff made minor modifications to the letter, including stating the need for bicycle and pedestrian safety funding for cities along the US97 Corridor.

**Motion 4:** Chair Méndez moved to approve the US97 Safety Letter to the Oregon Legislature, as presented. David Abbas seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0 to 1. (Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Abbas (City of Bend), Wruck (Deschutes County). Nays: None. Abstain: Driscoll (ODOT).)



## 10. Other Business

Bend TSAP Update status: Tyler Deke reported the TSAP online open house would close today, having received over 1,000 general comments and close to 700 comments on the interactive map. He talked with the consultant team yesterday about compiling and overlaying data from the public comments onto existing safety information to look for trends and identify site-specific or systemic safety improvements indicated in Bend.

Chair Mendez stated comments could still be submitted today to the online open house available at <https://bendoregon.gov/transportationsafety>.

BMPO letter of support for Bend's SS4A grant application: Tyler Deke reported the City would apply for an SS4A grant soon to purchase cameras to report speed and volume or use for video analytics and near miss analysis, which could allow a more proactive approach to addressing potential safety issues. He asked the Policy Board to consider approving the draft support letter.

Chair Méndez emphasized the need to consider camera policies to protect privacy and avoid creating databases that could be used for unintended purposes. He noted red light and speeding cameras had been scheduled to begin issuing citations but would be delayed to give the Bend Police Department time to work on the system. He encouraged Board members to consider potentially shifting long-term investments toward a rail system rather than spending tens of millions of dollars on highway paving projects.

## 11. Public Comment

Bob Townsend responded to James Dorofi's question about bus service to the new library, stating that Route 6 had been adjusted last week to begin serving the new library on its opening day.

Greg Bryant had previously asked the Board to allocate \$30,000 – \$35,000 for roads in Deschutes River Woods (DRW), which was not done. He planned to attend an annual meeting tomorrow in DRW to present his findings that being in the BMPO did not financially benefit DRW in comparison to the maintenance funding provided to the City.

Councilor Méndez noted the BMPO had supported transit funding for DRW.

Stacie Fritz said red light camera infrastructure could be used in training for Police Officers, Sheriffs, and State Patrol Troopers, and stated the City needed to give semi-trucks their own route to get them off City streets. She suggested making a business or a chart to share information about federal, state, and city funding opportunities, and she encouraged contacting United Way Central Oregon regarding potential transportation funding.



## **12. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next meeting of the BMPO Policy Board is scheduled for June 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Méndez adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

---



### **Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

### **Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad**

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.