

Meeting Minutes

BMPO Policy Board Meeting



Location: Baney Conference Room (ODOT Region 4 Headquarters, Building M)
63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon
Date: March 21, 2025
Time: 12:00 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. Mike Riley, Bend City Councilor
4. Omar Ahmed, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Oregon and Lower John Day Area Manager

BMPO Staff and Other Attendees

1. Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager
2. Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner
3. Kelli Kennedy, BMPO Program Coordinator
4. David Abbas, City of Bend Transportation Mobility Director
5. David Amiton, ODOT Region 4 Planning Manager
6. Greg Bryant, BMPO Technical Advisory Committee, Deschutes River Woods resident
7. Chris Doty, Deschutes County Road Department

Notes

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Méndez called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. with a quorum established.

2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Manager Deke reviewed the hybrid meeting guidelines.

3. Public Comment

Chair Méndez called for public comment. There was none.

4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced: February 21, 2025, BMPO Policy Board draft meeting minutes
(Attachment A in agenda packet).

Motion 1: Mike Riley moved approval of the February 21, 2025, Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Riley (City of Bend).
Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

5. BMPO Reserves and Earned Interest

Manager Deke provided an overview about earned interest, primarily received from accounts holding COVID funds. The Policy Board was asked to discuss how to allocate the available earned interest funds. He discussed the progress toward establishing an Operational Reserve and the potential to create new reserves to award to competitive projects; funding consultant support for future planning projects; and providing backup funds in the case of disrupted federal funding.

Staff addressed questions about accounting for earned interest in the budget; an example scenario with potential yearly contributions to the Operational, Awarded Projects, and Major Planning Projects Reserves; possibly using the Awarded Projects Reserve to fund unexpected costs on small projects; developers planning contingency funding for project cost increases; aligning language about finances with best practices; allocating funds to the Reserve as a part of the fiscal years 2028 – 2030 State Highway Funds (SHF) distribution; and the restrictions on federal dollars received by the MPO versus the flexibility of SHFs.

6. State Highway Fund (SHF) Program Distribution of FY28-FY30 Funds

Materials referenced: Distribution of BMPO's FY28-FY30 State Highway Funds (Attachment B in agenda packet).

Senior Planner Napoli stated the Policy Board would be determining the distribution of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 – 2030 SHFs, estimated to total between \$1.38 million and \$1.4 million. She reviewed the previous BMPO discretionary funds distribution for FY2025 – FY2027.

Questions from the Board were addressed regarding the shift from federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) dollars to State funding, eliminating the 10 percent loss to exchange federal funding and offsetting the reduction in total funding received.

Board discussion continued about the potential vulnerability of SHF dollars and ODOTs language allowing agreements to be terminated "for convenience." Unforeseen risks could potentially put funding in jeopardy, though if STBGs stopped at the State level, it would take time to change State law to reduce the allocations or change the distribution formulas.

David Abbas, Transportation Mobility Director, reviewed funding sources and the proposed budget for Street Preservation, noting the MPO is a key resource in improving the Bend pavement condition index (PCI). He described street-related programs and the option to focus Street Preservation funding toward the low-stress network, neighborhood greenways, and key bicycle and pedestrian routes. He addressed clarifying questions and confirmed reduced funding would lower the PCI, seal treatments would save money on road repairs over time. Senior Planner Napoli continued, providing an overview of current SHF recipients, as well as the BMPO project application process and criteria. Finance Staff's update, which was not included in the agenda packet, regarded an increase in the estimated cost for BMPO Planning for

consultant assistance or contributions to area planning work. The \$80,000 approved previously for Reserves could not be used as the estimated yearly cost of consultant assistance in 2028 – 2030 had increased to \$115,000. She shared three funding scenario tables and acknowledged a typological error in Scenario 3 where the amount for BMPO Reserves should be \$115,000, not \$110,000. (Slides 34 – 35)

Questions from the Board were addressed regarding using BMPO discretionary funds for staffing and hiring consultants; the plan to use Reserve funds for future consulting needs; addressing funding distribution now to stay on the MPO's project application process schedule; the FY2028 – 2030 SHF funding distribution being a related, but separate, decision from the FY2026 BMPO Budget approval; and demand for Street Preservation funds to be reduced or eliminated when the City reaches Transportation Utility Fee (TUF) Phase 3 or secures other funding.

Support was expressed for the City being responsible to find Street Preservation funding and the MPO using the SHF funds to promote safety-oriented programming such as the Neighborhood Street Safety Program.

The Board consented to support the presented funding amounts for the Project Application Process, Staffing, and Reserves line items of Scenario 1 and return to decide how to allocate the remaining funds.

Motion 2: Phil Chang moved partial approval of Scenario 1, keeping the Project Application Process, Staffing, and Reserves lines as presented and come back to discuss how the remaining amount will be used. Mike Riley seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Riley (City of Bend).
Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

7. US97 North Corridor Overview

Materials referenced: The agenda packet included a link to the **US97 Bend North Corridor website**.

Omar Ahmed provided an overview of the completed US97 Bend North Corridor project timeline, funding sources, and project goals. The project realigned a section of US97, improved roundabouts near US20, and upgraded bicycle and pedestrian facilities on both roads. The project stayed within the budget and was completed early using a compressed design-build schedule. Before and after project pictures were displayed.

The Board consented to skip Agenda Items 9 and 10 due to time..

8. Annual Obligation Report

Materials referenced: The agenda packet included a link to the **FFY24 Annual Obligation Report**.

Kelli Kennedy presented the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Annual Obligation Report, which included Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects totaling \$21.2 million. She detailed funding sources and projects that received funding, noting more information was available online at the link above.

Manager Deke described the current complexity between awarding and obligating funding to projects, noting the FHWA obligations were currently paused.

The Board addressed Agenda Item 11 at this time.

9. 2025 State Legislative Session Update

This item was not addressed due to time constraints.

10. Federal Update and BMPO Document Updates

This item was not addressed due to time constraints.

11. Other Business

This agenda item was addressed directly following Agenda Item 8.

Policy Board member agenda item requests:

The Policy Board would return to discuss the FY2028 – 2030 SHF funding distribution, the skipped 2025 State Legislative Update, Federal Update, and BMPO Document Update.

The Policy Board would next meet on April 18th at 12:00 p.m. and the BMPO Budget Committee would meet March 26, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

David Abbas stated preferred to continue receiving Street Preservation funds from the MPO as currently allocated in the funding distribution until Phase 3 of the TUF was underway. He agreed to return with more examples of how Street Preservation dollars were used and more information on the Neighborhood Streets Safety Program.

12. Public Comment

Chair Méndez called for public comment. There was none.

13. Adjourn

Chair Méndez adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.



Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact Kelli Kennedy at kkennedy@bendoregon.gov or 541-693-2122. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.



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 con Kelli Kennedy en kkennedy@bendoregon.gov o 541-693-2122. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1.