

Meeting Minutes

BMPO Policy Board



Location: Baney Conference Room (ODOT Region 4 Headquarters, Building M)
63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon
Date: May 16, 2025
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Prepared by: ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

In Attendance

Members

1. Chair Ariel “Ari” Méndez, Bend City Councilor
2. 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. Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET)
5. James Dorofi, BMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Notes

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Méndez called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. with a quorum established.

2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Manager Deke reviewed the hybrid meeting guidelines.

3. Public Comment

There was none.

4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced: March 26, 2025, BMPO Budget Committee draft meeting minutes.

(Attachment A in the agenda packet).

April 18, 2025, BMPO Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment B in the agenda packet).

Motion 1: Omar Ahmed moved approval of the March 26, 2025, Budget Committee draft meeting minutes and the April 18, 2025, Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Mike Riley seconded the motion which passed 2 to 0 to 1.

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

5. Policy Board Bylaws Amendments

Materials referenced: Draft Policy Board Bylaws (Attachment C in the agenda packet).

Draft TAC Amended Bylaws (Attachment D in the agenda packet).

Links were provided to the existing **Policy Board Bylaws (adopted 10/15/2019)** and **TAC Bylaws (adopted 10/19/2019)**.

Manager Deke presented the proposed amendments to the TAC Bylaws including changing Central Oregon Community College (COCC) to a non-voting member.

Following discussion, the Policy Board consented to the proposed TAC Bylaw amendments with additional changes to Article VI (Page 26 of the Agenda Packet), eliminating Paragraph C and modifying language in Paragraph B to require a simple majority vote to approve recommendations to the Policy Board regarding TAC Bylaw amendments.

Manager Deke reviewed the proposed amendments to the Policy Board Bylaws, noting minor edits and facilitating deliberation of the desired changes.

The Board discussed ensuring actions could not be blocked or controlled by any single entity; the Bend City Councilors' duty to inform the Council while representing the City on the BMPO; holding a separate conversation in the future regarding the BMPO Manager's ability to sign small contracts; and possibly meeting in Executive Session to provide input during the BMPO Manager's annual performance evaluation.

Board members agreed on several changes to the proposed amendments to the Bylaws including allowing actions to be approved by simple majority vote rather than by super majority; only allowing publicly elected Policy Board members to hold the Chair and Vice Chair positions; requiring that three out of five voting Policy Board members be present to conduct business as a quorum; removing the reference to Robert's Rules of Order; removing Article VI Paragraph B regarding adding future transportation providers to the TAC; clarifying language regarding the flexibility to select community members who did not live within the MPO boundary to serve on the Budget Committee or TAC; and allowing amendments to the Policy Board Bylaws to be approved by a super majority vote.

Manager Deke confirmed Staff would incorporate the changes, initiate the 30-day member review period for amending Policy Board Bylaws, and return next month for adoption of the amendments. Staff would also return in a couple months with a set of draft meeting rules for the Board's consideration.

Motion 2: Mike Riley moved approval of the proposed Bylaw amendments as amended and directed Staff to initiate the 30-day member review process. Omar Ahmed seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.

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

6. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment

Materials referenced: Public notice with summary of the proposed amendment (Attachment E in the agenda packet).

Kelli Kennedy presented the proposed amendment to add the ODOT Fleet Charging Equipment project to the MTIP, noting cost increases were proposed for the preliminary engineering and construction phases of the project using funds from state and federal carbon reduction programs. No public comments were received.

Omar Ahmed confirmed ODOT already had full access to the project funding, outlined locations for ODOT charging stations throughout the state, and clarified that the charging stations would be used by the ODOT maintenance fleet and would not be available to the public.

The Board discussed the potential for perceived conflict of interest versus situations legally requiring a declaration of conflict of interest. Omar Ahmed recused himself from the vote due to his position with ODOT.

Motion 3: Mike Riley moved approval of the proposed amendment to the 2024 – 2027 MTIP as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 2 to 0 to 1.

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

7. Cascades East Transit (CET) Updates

Materials referenced: A link was provided to the [CET website](#).

Bob Townsend presented an update on 2025 CET initiatives, draft fare guidelines, the future of CET in Bend, and upcoming legislation including the proposed language defining a “qualified entity” under HB2795 and potential payroll tax increases in the 2025 Transportation Package.

Questions and comments were addressed about the expected launch dates for new bus routes; current inability to accommodate overnight parking for new bus routes going to Redmond and the airport; mitigating the abuse of Dial a Ride services through fare implementation; an alternative transportation package currently being proposed by the House of Representatives Republican caucus; CET’s \$30 million annual operating budget being largely composed of federal grant funding; and another potential transportation package being crafted by a joint subcommittee led by Representatives Mannix and Helfrich.

8. Subcommittee for Review of Citizen Member Applications

Materials referenced: Budget Committee Roster (Attachment F in the agenda packet).
TAC Roster (Attachment G in the agenda packet).

Links were provided to the **BMPO webpage** and the **City of Bend Advisory Committee Application webpage**.

Chair Méndez and Omar Ahmed volunteered to serve on the subcommittee to review the citizen member applications.

9. Other Business

Chair Méndez reported a recent car crash on Highway 97 had prompted multiple emails from citizens asking about potentially installing a barrier in some locations along Highway 97. The Bend Police Chief had relayed that traffic officers agreed installing a barrier was a high priority.

Omar Ahmed noted a barrier along Highway 97 was a need throughout the entire region, and he encouraged taking the opportunity to review and revise the Bend Parkway Plan accordingly.

Policy Board member agenda item requests:

Board members requested more information be provided at a future meeting about the potential need for barriers in some locations along Highway 97.

The next scheduled meeting of the Policy Board would be June 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

10. Public Comment

James Dorofi stated \$500 was a lot to ask for an annual bus pass with the goal of getting more riders to use the bus system. He suggested charging \$250 for an annual bus pass and reviewing the price after 12 or 18 months.

Board members encouraged Mr. Dorofi to submit his comment formally to CET and consider providing additional input on the proposed cost of the monthly bus pass.

11. Adjourn

Chair Méndez adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.



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