

# Meeting Minutes

## BMPO Policy Board



Location: Baney Conference Room (ODOT Region 4 Headquarters, Building M)  
63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon  
Date: August 15, 2025  
Time: 12:00 p.m.  
Prepared by: ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

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## In Attendance

### Members

1. Chair Ariel "Ari" Méndez, Bend City Councilor
2. Vice Chair Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner
3. Omar Ahmed, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Oregon and Lower John Day Area Manager

### Member Alternates

1. David Abbas, City of Bend

### BMPO Staff and Other Attendees

1. Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager
2. Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner
3. Jamie Lemon, Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands
4. Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET)
5. Greg Bryant, BMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
6. James Dorofi, BMPO TAC

## Notes

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Méndez called the meeting to order at 12:08 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: June 20, 2025, BMPO Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment A in the agenda packet).

**Motion 1:** Phil Chang moved approval of the June 20, 2025, Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Omar Ahmed seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.  
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Abbas (City of Bend).  
Nays: None.)

**5. Oregon Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Overview and Draft Statewide Needs Assessment**

Materials referenced: Deschutes County FLAP funding summary (Attachment B in the agenda packet).

Links were provided to the **Oregon FLAP Statewide Needs Assessment website** and the **Draft Oregon FLAP Needs Assessment document**.

Jamie Lemon provided an overview of the Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL) and Oregon FLAP program, highlighting the role of the Programming Decision Committee, which made project funding determinations after receiving recommendations from the Technical Advisory Group. The next Oregon FLAP Call for Projects would fund projects occurring in fiscal years 2029 and 2030 with a project submission window tentatively opening October 2025 through January 2026 and final funding decisions made in May or June 2026. She presented the draft FLAP Needs Assessment and outlined potential project needs identified within Deschutes County.

Questions were addressed about FLAP's revenue source being Title 23 Highway Trust Funds, which were funded primarily by the federal gas tax; the likelihood that programmatic prioritization of identified projects would occur after receiving information on future FLAP funding; FLAP's ability to fund construction or planning projects; not needing to have a project on the list in the FLAP Needs Assessment to apply during the Call for Projects; Program Decision Committee member term lengths; and safeguarding public funds intended to increase access to federal lands from being used to improve access to private luxury resorts.

**6. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendments**

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

A link was provided to the **News from the City of Bend webpage**.

Manager Deke presented two proposed amendments to the 2024 – 2027 MTIP which involved cancelling a CET software project and reducing funding for an ODOT curb ramp project.

**Motion 2:** Phil Chang moved approval of the proposed amendments to the 2024 – 2027 MTIP as presented. David Abbas seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.  
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Abbas (City of Bend).  
Nays: None.)

**7. BMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Amended Bylaws Adoption**

Materials referenced: Draft TAC Bylaws (Attachment D in the agenda packet).

Manager Deke reviewed the proposed changes to the TAC Bylaws.

The Board briefly discussed the complex requirements of Robert's Rules of Order, noting its principles were often simplified and adapted for use by local boards.

The Board considered the proposed TAC Bylaws amendments and consented to the following:

- Adding language to Article 4, Section F to state voting shall be conducted according to "the principles of" Robert's Rules of Order.
- Striking language from Article 5 referring to the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Adding language to Article 5 to state meetings would be conducted in accordance with "the principles of" Robert's Rules of Order and Oregon's Public Meetings Law.

Senior Planner Napoli clarified approving the TAC Bylaws amendments would change the membership status of Central Oregon Community College (COCC), not the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC).

**Motion 3:** Phil Chang moved approval of the proposed TAC Bylaws as amended. Omar Ahmed seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.  
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Abbas (City of Bend).  
Nays: None.)

#### **8. Federal Surface Transportation Legislation Reauthorization**

Materials referenced: Draft BMPO response letter (Attachment E in the agenda packet).

Links were provided to the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act website](#) and the [Request for Information webpage](#).

Manager Deke stated the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) had issued a Request for Information (RFI) from the public and stakeholders seeking ideas and recommendations to inform the next transportation bill. Staff had modified the Association of MPOs' draft response template to increase local relevance, and it was presented for the Board's approval.

Clarification was provided around the purpose and timeline for the RFI comment period. The idea of sending a copy of the letter to the congressional delegation was mentioned.

**Motion 4:** David Abbas moved approval of the letter to USDOT regarding federal surface transportation legislation reauthorization as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.  
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Abbas (City of Bend).  
Nays: None.)

#### **9. BMPO Committee Stipend Policy Update**

Materials referenced: Adopted Committee Stipend Policy (Attachment F in the agenda packet).  
Revised Committee Stipend Policy (Attachment G in the agenda packet).

Manager Deke stated the current Stipend Policy contained language specific to one payment method. New payment methods were now available, so Staff recommended changing the language to allow BMPO Committee members to select a payment method. He confirmed the BMPO Stipend Policy was a simplified version of City of Bend's Committee member Stipend Policy.

**Motion 5:** Omar Ahmed moved approval of the revised BMPO Committee Stipend Policy as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed 3 to 0.  
(Ayes: Méndez (City of Bend), Chang (Deschutes County), Ahmed (ODOT), Abbas (City of Bend).  
Nays: None.)

## 10. Other Business

Bend Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) update status: Manager Deke reported a consultant team for the Bend TSAP update had been selected and draft contracts would be finalized during the last week of August 2025. The TSAP update process was expected to begin in September 2025. The federal grant funding the TSAP update had been received in 2023 and the BMPO was working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to amend the grant agreement to extend the deadline for completion until early 2027.

State Highway Fund (SHF) Program application cycle: Senior Planner Napoli reported the SHF Program application window would open September 1, 2025, and close September 23, 2025. An overview of applications received would be presented at the Policy Board's October meeting.

State Crash Trends Analysis: Ariel Méndez reported the Crash Trends Analysis showed a significant increase in fatal accident and serious injury statistics statewide after the pandemic. Bend's accident statistics reflected the increase locally, with slight improvement in 2024. He welcomed other sources of information and encouraged considering how to address the trends.

Deschutes County TSAP update: Manager Deke stated the Deschutes County TSAP update process was underway and an overview of the updated County TSAP would be presented to the Policy Board when it was near completion. Bend's upcoming TSAP update could potentially utilize US 97 corridor transportation data from the recently updated TSAPs of surrounding counties. He hoped the region would work together to fund safety improvements along the US 97 corridor due to the magnitude of serious or fatal crashes there in the last few years.

Omar Ahmed noted ODOT was going through a process similar to a TSAP update and he would provide Board members links to a related webinar and survey.

The Board discussed the possibility and potential drawbacks of holding a meeting to share information about FLAP grant opportunities and to coordinate projects in the region between different agencies. The importance of using funds strategically for maintenance before beginning new projects was emphasized. Omar Ahmed agreed to add the topic to the agenda for the next Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT) meeting to be held on September 11, 2025.

The next scheduled meeting of the Policy Board would be September 19, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

#### 11. Public Comment

There was none.

#### 12. Adjourn

Chair Méndez adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.



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