

# Meeting Summary



## BMPO Technical Advisory Committee

Location: Board Room (City Hall)  
710 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon  
Date: September 2, 2025  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Prepared by: ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

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### In Attendance

#### **Voting Members**

1. Quinn Keever, Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD)
2. Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET), joined at 10:15 a.m.
3. Greg Bryant, Community Member
4. James Dorofin, Community Member
5. Susanna Julber, City of Bend
6. Brian Potwin, Commute Options
7. Tarik Rawlings, Deschutes County
8. Neil Baunsgard, Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), joined at 10:26 a.m.
9. Ken Shonkwiler, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 4, joined at 10:31 a.m.

#### **Voting Member Alternates**

1. Michelle Rhoads, Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS)
2. David Green, Deschutes County BPAC, served as alternate until 10:15 a.m.

#### **Non-Voting Members**

1. Angie Brewer, Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD)
2. Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager

#### **BMPO Staff and Other Attendees**

1. Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner
2. Kelli Kennedy, BMPO Program Coordinator
3. Megan Tuck, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC)

### Notes

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Manager Deke called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with a quorum established. Greg Bryant was thanked for his service on the TAC as this would be his last meeting.

## **2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines**

Manager Deke reviewed the meeting guidelines.

## **3. Public Comment**

There was none.

## **4. Meeting Summary**

Materials referenced: TAC draft meeting minutes for July 1, 2025 (Attachment A in agenda packet).

**Motion 1:** Tarik Rawlings move approval of the July 1, 2025, TAC draft meeting summary as presented. David Green seconded the motion which passed 8 to 0.

(Ayes: Keever (BPRD), Bryant (Community Member), Dorofi (Community Member), Julber (City of Bend), Potwin (Commute Options), Rawlings (Deschutes County), Rhoads (BLS), Green (Deschutes BPAC). Nays: None.)

## **5. Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) Safety Grant – Implementation/Outreach**

Materials referenced: Central Oregon Safe Travel Program Update Memo (Attachment B in the agenda packet).

Megan Tuck presented an overview of COIC's efforts to coordinate the region's traffic safety efforts between agencies, highlighted the Advisory Team's role, and described public outreach activities focused on encouraging safe driving. COIC had been awarded a grant from ODOT for 2025 – 2026 and would be looking for matching funds for the upcoming year from partners including the BMPO, City of Bend, and Central Oregon Health Council.

Questions were addressed regarding the outdated COIC webpage; federal funding administered through ODOT's Transportation Safety Office being the source of the approximately \$90,000 grant; efforts to coordinate with the Warm Springs Tribe's Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) update; BLS representation within COIC; the importance of working in partnership to increase transportation safety around school zones; education and outreach geared toward encouraging positive driving behavior changes; street design being beyond the scope of the COIC project; the City's Street Design Standards review process to occur within the next year; and possibly reaching out to private schools to provide transportation safety education and activities.

## **6. Update of the BMPO Title VI Plan**

Materials referenced: Links were provided to the **Draft Title VI Plan, 2025** and the **BMPO Title VI webpage**.

Senior Planner Napoli provided an overview of recent federal actions impacting the BMPO Title VI Plan, revised BMPO Title VI Plan Goals, and updated demographic mapping tools. A 21-day comment period was currently open, and the Policy Board would consider adopting the

updated BMPO Title VI Plan on October 17, 2025. She clarified that demographic mapping tools would still provide access to the same data sets, but some data would be left out of the BMPO Title VI Plan to remain compliant with federal requirements. She confirmed Staff had spent many hours removing Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) and environmental justice references from documents.

**Motion 2:** Greg Bryant moved to recommend approval to the BMPO Policy Board of the Draft Title VI Plan as presented. David Green seconded the motion which passed 10 to 0. (Ayes: Keever (BPRD), Townsend (CET), Bryant (Community Member), Dorofi (Community Member), Julber (City of Bend), Potwin (Commute Options), Rawlings (Deschutes County), Baunsgard (Deschutes BPAC), Shonkwiler (ODOT), Rhoads (BLS). Nays: None.)

**7. Bend Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) Update – Status/Timeline**

Materials referenced: A link was provided to the [2019 Bend TSAP](#).

Manager Deke stated the scope of work, budget, and contracts for the Bend TSAP update were being negotiated with the consultant team. The Bend TSAP update process would begin in late September and conclude in the spring of 2027. All TAC members along with other stakeholders would form a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and hold three meetings through the process.

Topics of discussion included COVID's impact on transit data; the significant statewide and national increase in fatal and serious injury crashes caused by speeding or aggressive, impaired, or distracted driving; COIC's ability to shift the focus of education and outreach activities in response to new data from TSAP updates; anticipating recommendations from the consultant team on reducing crashes at identified high-crash locations; the benefits of creating a TSAP including increased grant eligibility; concerns with timeline feasibility of Oregon's 2035 zero fatalities goal; overlap between the City and County TSAPs and the ability to use data from the County TSAP; the County's plan to adopt the TSAP in time to apply for federal grants during the next funding cycle in Spring 2026; and the need for a summary of compiled transit data for public information.

**8. State Highway Fund (SHF) Program – Call for Projects Schedule Reminder**

Materials referenced: SHF Call for Projects Schedule (Attachment C in the agenda packet).

A link was provided to the [BMPO SHF Program webpage](#).

Senior Planner Napoli reviewed the SHF Call for Projects schedule. The application window would be open September 1 through September 23, 2025, and applicants would be presenting projects to the TAC on October 7, 2025, and to the Policy Board on November 21, 2025. The TAC would make funding recommendations to the Policy Board prior to funding being awarded. She clarified that the Policy Board had reviewed and made minor changes to the criteria, but there had not been discussion regarding project prioritization due to receiving less SHF funds.

**9. Member & Guest Roundtable**

Deschutes BPAC: David Green reported there was interest in doing a delayed ribbon cutting for the Tumalo underpass to increase awareness of the new bicycle route to avoid the roundabout.

BLIS: Michelle Rhoads reported the draft BLIS Safe Routes to School Plan would soon be available to share publicly. Bus drivers were practicing routes in preparation for school to resume and students would be present in school zones beginning tomorrow. She noted BLIS looked forward to participating in drafting local TSAPs to increase safety in school zones.

City of Bend: Susanna Julber stated the City was embarking on a multi-year Comprehensive Plan and Urban Growth Boundary update process and draft Requests for Proposals would go to Procurement in the next few months. The City would also update its Transportation System Plan to comply with new Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rules and Oregon Goal 12. The City had hired Derek Hofbauer as the new Mobility Programs Manager to implement transportation options and programs identified in the last Transportation Systems Plan using revenue generated by the City's Transportation Utility Fee.

Deschutes County: Tarik Rawlings reported the County was anticipating adopting its updated TSAP later this fall and he highlighted current regional planning efforts including the Stevens Road Tract Transportation Impact Analysis, high-priority improvements at the Ward Road/Bear Creek Road intersection, a zone change at the High Desert Museum, and a zone change in the City of Sisters Plan amendment.

ODOT: Ken Shonkwiler stated ODOT remained optimistic about continued funding. The House of Representatives had voted on a new transportation bill, and the Senate would be voting on the bill on Wednesday. He gave an update on the Revere Avenue Rail Crossing Study and noted the US 20 Facility Plan was in the final stages. ODOT would soon be starting on projects for the 2025 – 2027 biennium, with projects in Bend likely to begin after July 2026.

Commute Options: Brian Potwin reported Bend's E-bike Rebate Program carried out in partnership with the Pacific Power Foundation ended after awarding 70 rebates. Portland's E-Bike Rebate Program would begin next year using an adapted version of Bend's E-bike Rebate Program. Commute Options had partnered with CET to create a vanpool with 25 operating vans and with Bend Bikes to work toward mitigating the load on the transportation system.

DLCD: Angie Brewer stated DLCD's technical assistance grant window would be open until October 10, 2025. The grant was intended to help local governments to pursue projects to comply with state law. She outlined criteria focus areas and welcomed anyone with a project that may qualify to reach out for more information.

CET: Bob Townsend reported the COIC Board had approved reinstating bus fares in January 2026 after routes were more consistent. Bend's fixed route and Dial-A-Ride services were currently being provided by a private contractor, but the contract would not be extended, and CET would take over providing those services and add a Saturday Community Connector route to Redmond and an airport direct run in early 2026.

Manager Deke reviewed the ODOT statewide safety data memo and stated he would send the memo to TAC members after the meeting. He outlined tables showing significant increases across all categories of fatal and serious injury crashes in Oregon since 2014 and he noted the complexity of upcoming decisions regarding funding prioritization.

The TAC discussed the possible correlation between smartphones and computer screens in cars and distracted driving; concerns about distracted driving being significantly underreported; potentially using the reference “self-reported distracted driving” internally to recognize the opportunity for underreporting; vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) in Oregon increasing again after a brief decline; local crash data being lower than the state trends; Bend not having a single crash fatality so far this year; the increase in local crashes involving alcohol or drugs; and crashes involving overlapping categories such as alcohol, speeding, and unrestrained occupants.

## **10. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **11. Next TAC Meeting**

The next meeting of the BMPO TAC is scheduled for October 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

## **12. Adjourn**

Manager Deke adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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