

Meeting Minutes



BMPO Policy Board

Location: Baney Conference Room, Building M, ODOT Region 4
63055 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon

Date: November 15, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by: ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

In Attendance

Policy Board Members

- Chair Barb Campbell, Bend City Councilor
- Vice-Chair Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner
- Ariel "Ari" Mendez, Bend City Councilor
- Omar Ahmed, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Oregon Area Manager

BMPO Staff and Other Attendees

- Tyler Deke, BMPO Manager
- Andrea Napoli, BMPO Senior Planner
- Kelli Kennedy, BMPO Staff
- Greg Bryant, BMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- David Abbas, City of Bend
- Bob Townsend, Cascades East Transit (CET)
- Chris Doty, Deschutes County

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Campbell called the regular meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. with a quorum established.

2. Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Manager Deke reviewed the meeting guidelines.

3. Public Comment

Chair Campbell called for public comment. There was none.

4. Meeting Minutes

Materials referenced: October 18, 2024, Policy Board draft meeting minutes (Attachment A in agenda packet)

Motion 1: Ariel Mendez moved approval of the October 18, 2024 Policy Board draft meeting minutes as presented. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. MPO Boundary – Tumalo

Materials referenced: MPO Boundary Update Map (Attachment B in the agenda packet)
Tumalo Resident Comment Log (Attachment C in the agenda packet)

Senior Planner Napoli presented the MPO Boundary update maps, noting the minimum boundary area, as determined by the census, no longer required inclusion of Tumalo, and she highlighted the mixed results of public outreach efforts in Tumalo.

There was discussion regarding possibly including the existing areas of Tumalo within the MPO Boundary; the need to finalize the boundary quickly with the option to amend the MPO Boundary in the future to include urban growth boundary expansion areas; public outreach comments showing misunderstanding of the purpose and benefits of being within the MPO Boundary; the positive impacts of being within the MPO Boundary on funding opportunities for rural communities; and responding to Tumalo residents who had submitted public input to clarify misunderstandings.

The Board discussed which areas to include and came to consensus on keeping the existing areas of Tumalo within the MPO Boundary and adding the Tumalo State Park land as recommended by Staff, with the option to amend the MPO Boundary in the future, if needed.

Motion 2: Phil Chang moved to continue inclusion of the existing parts of the Tumalo unincorporated area in the MPO Boundary and add the State Park lands as requested by Oregon State Parks. Ariel Mendez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6. Budget Committee Appointments

Materials referenced: Applicants and recommended terms (Attachment D in the agenda packet)

Chair Campbell noted the three vacancies on the Budget Committee and Manager Deke presented the Budget Committee appointment recommendations made by a subcommittee of the MPO who had reviewed the applications.

Motion 3: Ariel Mendez moved to approve Janet Gregor and Patrick Walsh to serve three-year terms on the Budget Committee and Chuck Arnold to serve a one-year term on the Budget Committee. Phil Chang seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

7. MPO Bylaws and Establishment IGA

Materials referenced: The MPO Establishment IGA and MPO Bylaws were included in the October meeting agenda packet.

Manager Deke presented possible amendments to the MPO Establishment intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and MPO Bylaws and requested input from the Board.

The Board authorized Staff to begin working on amending the MPO Establishment IGA to add a voting MPO Board member from Cascades East Transit (CET) which would require approval from the Bend City Council, Deschutes County Commission, ODOT, and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC).

The Board discussed potential amendments to the MPO Bylaws including maintaining an odd number of votes by reducing City of Bend members to two members, each with their own vote; receiving biannual financial updates; minor language revisions; a quorum requirement of four members; individual discretion with selecting Policy Board member alternates; voting by a simple majority of three while balancing the votes between the represented agencies; replacing the requirement for unanimity with a supermajority to change the Bylaws; allowing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members to participate in meetings as ex officio members at the Chair's discretion; clarifying the role of the MPO Manager including the authority to sign contracts within a certain threshold, engaging the Policy Board in the process of the MPO Manager's performance review, and the possibility of the MPO Board being involved in the City's hiring process; and receiving biannual updates from the TAC.

8. MPO Work Schedule, Strategic Plan, and Goals

Manager Deke reviewed the 5-year Work Program Schedule noting the potential for additional projects mid-2026 through 2027 and the possibility of developing Goals or a Strategic Plan.

Questions and comments from the Board were addressed about possible significant changes for the MPO under the upcoming presidential administration not coming into effect in until mid-2026; the possibility of doing extra work on updating the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan and implementing the Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP); the COIC using grant funding from ODOT to continue work on TSAP implementation; developing strategies to address rural transportation safety due to high numbers of fatalities in unincorporated Deschutes County; keeping the potential Strategic Plan simple and achievable; the possibility of only working to create a Strategic Plan in the event that the extra resources and time become available, as the Strategic Plan would be of little value if the MPO was busy to capacity doing mandated projects; and doing research on the Strategic Plans of bigger MPOs.

9. 2025 State Legislative Session – MPO Engagement

Agenda Item 9 was not addressed due to lack of time.

10. 2025 Policy Board Meeting Schedule (Tentative)

Materials referenced: Proposed 2025 Policy Board Meeting Schedule (Attachment E in the agenda packet)

Manager Deke presented the tentative scheduled meeting dates and times through 2025 and invited the Board to provide input.

11. Other Business

Chair Campbell noted the new sidewalks along US20 looked very nice after being impassible for years with phone poles in the middle of the path.

US97 North Corridor signage: Omar Ahmed reported that almost all the signage for the US97 North Corridor project had been installed. He clarified that ODOT is not responsible for installing blue business signs after construction is completed and requests for business signage should be sent to the Oregon Travel Information Council (OTIC) with the location to be approved by ODOT. The importance of signage emphasizing shopping opportunities in the area was noted. Omar Ahmed explained the OTIC had a high bar of conditions to be met for shopping signs, and he stated after the construction was completed, further discussions about wayfinding would be held.

Omar Ahmed stated a sign indicating that U-turns were illegal would be installed at the north end of the North Corridor project. He explained how legal U-turns could be made, and noted ODOT was scoping a barrier project which, if funded, would not take place until the ODOT 27 – 30 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle. He confirmed there had only been one or two crashes due to U-turns in that area and he noted the recent spike in the number of U-turns being made. He stated that ODOT was working to ensure mapping systems such as Ways and Google Maps were reflective of recent changes due to construction. It was mentioned that the newly opened Costco in the area may be affecting traffic patterns.

Chair Campbell announced the next scheduled meeting of the Policy Board would be December 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. She listed the potential topics of discussion for the next Policy Board meeting, and reminded Board members that they could reach out to her or to MPO Staff with agenda requests.

12. Public Comment

Chair Campbell called for public comment. There was none.

13. Adjournment

Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.



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