

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regular Board Meeting
September 10, 2026
Post Falls City Council Chambers, Post Falls City Hall, 1st Floor
408 N. Spokane Street, Post Falls, Idaho

Board Members in Attendance:

Randy Westlund, Vice Chairman	City of Post Falls
Steve Adams	Lakes Highway District
John Hodgkins	City of Rathdrum
Ryan Hawkins	Idaho Transportation Department
Phil Cooper	Worley Highway District
Graham Christensen	East Side Highway District

Board Members Absent:

Bruce Mattare	Kootenai County
Dan Gookin	City of Coeur d'Alene
Tom Shafer	City of Hayden
Jim Kackman	Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Jeff Tyler	Post Falls Highway District

Staff Present:

Ali Marienau	Executive Director
Jess Eliason	Office Administrator

Attendees:

Jerry Wilson	ITD
Donna Montgomery	LHD
Monty Montgomery	Citizen
Robert Beachler	ITD
Chad Ingle	KCPT
Caleb Davis	Representative Fulcher's Office
Chris Bosley	City of Coeur d'Alene

1. Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board was called to order by Vice Chairman Randy Westlund at 1:30 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest:

Vice Chairman Westlund asked whether there were any proposed changes to the agenda or declarations of conflicts of interest. None were raised. He then announced that the Executive Director's Report would be taken up before Administrative Matters.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a. Approval of August 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes

There being no discussion, Mr. Phil Cooper moved to approve the August 13, 2026, KMPO Policy Board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Steve Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments: (limited to 3 minutes per person) – None.

5. KCATT Recap & Recommendations:

a. Mr. Chris Bosley reported that the westbound I-90 on-ramp at Northwest Boulevard was scheduled to close for up to two weeks, resulting in increased congestion at US-95. He stated that traffic on I-90 was scheduled to shift to the south side in mid-October to allow work on the north side, with two lanes maintained in each direction. Huetter Road was also scheduled to close beneath I-90 for bridge work.

Mr. Bosley discussed public concerns regarding overlapping construction projects and detours throughout Kootenai County. He noted that agencies coordinated projects but could not eliminate every conflict. Construction updates were shared through North Idaho News to improve public awareness.

Mr. Bosley stated that KCATT had forwarded a recommendation to approve the draft Transportation Improvement Program. He also requested feedback from Board members regarding the type and level of information they would prefer to receive from future KCATT meetings.

6. Administrative Matters:

a. August 2026 KMPO Expenditures

Ms. Ali Marienau, Executive Director, reported that August expenditures consisted primarily of routine operating expenses, including minor equipment updates and replacements. She stated that KMPO remained financially stable as the fiscal year ended. Planning funds for the new fiscal year were not affected by the TIP freeze and remained available for approved activities.

Mr. Graham Christensen moved to approve the August 2026 expenditures as presented. Mr. Steve Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. KMPO 2026-2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Requests:

1. Amendment #16 LHTAC request to increase funds for KN 22892

Ms. Ali Marienau, Executive Director, explained the need for and purpose of this amendment to the Old Highway 95/Union Pacific Railroad Bridge project. The original design would have connected the project to Parks Road and a proposed interchange near US-95 and the county line. Because ITD had deferred the interchange project and the original design would have resulted in significant costs to the highway district, the district requested consideration of a different alternative. A supplemental agreement was needed to address the redesign and change to the preferred alternative. The change qualified as an administrative amendment because the project remained in the environmental review and alternative-selection process.

2. Amendment #13 ITD request to modify the design, concept, and scope of KN 23618

Executive Director Ali Marienau explained to the Board that approval was requested because of considerable changes to the project's scope, concept, and budget. The project, identified in the current TIP as the I-90 Passage Multi-Plate Culvert, involved a large culvert east of Blue Creek Bay that provided boat access beneath I-90. The original plan was to rehabilitate the culvert; however, further investigation identified significant corrosion and vertical alignment concerns. As a result, the culvert needed to be replaced with a bridge founded on a bedrock.

The amendment modified the project's key number to reflect the revised scope, concept, and cost. Ms. Marienau noted that clarification from the Federal Highway Administration was still needed regarding the TIP amendment to freeze and stated that she would update the Board. The amendment was advertised for a 30-day public comment period, and no comments were received.

Mr. Steve Adams moved to approve TIP Amendment #13, an ITD request to modify the design, concept, and scope of KN 23618. Mr. Graham Christensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. FY27 Budget Amendment

Executive Director Ali Marienau explained the need for budget amendments. The agency's CPA firm estimated that the annual audit cost would increase from \$9,500 to \$19,000 due to additional audit requirements. Funds were transferred from the general contracting line item to legal and financial services. The internet and telephone budget was also increased by \$1,500 to cover higher service costs and the replacement of the outdated phone system. Ms. Marienau requested approval of the amendments and authorization to seek audit estimates from other firms.

Mr. Graham Christensen moved to approve the FY 2027 Budget Amendment. Mr. John Hodgkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. 2027 Unified Planning Work Program Revisions

Executive Director Ali Marienau explained the proposed amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which the Board had adopted the previous month. The revisions addressed comments from ITD and FHWA regarding projected revenues, funding sources, task descriptions, and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan budget. The amendments also restored funding for safe and accessible transportation options, reassigned paid time off and holiday expenses to the administration task, and added the required federal planning factors as Appendix B.

Ms. Marienau also stated that ITD and FHWA had requested a formal UPWP amendment process. She planned to draft guidelines distinguishing administrative amendments, such as minor grammatical corrections, from substantive changes requiring Board approval. The proposed process would be presented to KCATT in September and to the Board in October.

Ms. Marienau requested approval of the amended UPWP, contingent upon KCATT's review and approval at its next meeting.

Mr. Steve Adams moved to approve the 2027 Unified Planning Work Program Revisions contingent upon KCATT's approval at its next meeting. Mr. John Hodgkins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Other Business:

a. Draft KMPO 2027-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Executive Director Ali Marienau explained that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) had completed a 30-day public comment period, including an open house on August 18. No one attended the open house; no public comments were received, and no changes were made to the document. Ms. Marienau requested approval so the TIP could be incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and submitted to FHWA once compliance requirements were met.

Mr. Graham Christensen moved to approve the draft KMPO 2027-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Steve Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Transportation (Informational Items Provided to KMPO):

KMPO is not the Designated Recipient of FTA Funding for the provision of transit service in Kootenai County. These presentations and informational items are provided as a service to the public and to local jurisdictions. Questions related to service, schedules, or concerns should be directed to Kootenai County or the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

a. Kootenai County Transit Report

Mr. Chad Ingle reported that fixed-route ridership had decreased by 2%, while paratransit ridership had increased by 25% compared with the previous year. He noted that demand for paratransit services continued to grow as the community aged. The Board of County Commissioners approved a 5310-grant agreement with ITD to support continued operations of the Ring-a-Ride program for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Mr. Ingle also reported that the new paratransit buses were ahead of schedule and could be delivered as early as December.

b. Coeur d'Alene Tribe Rural Transit Report - None.

9. Director's Report:

Ms. Ali Marienau, Executive Director, reported that a transportation planner had accepted KMPO's offer of employment and was expected to begin within the next few weeks.

The Rathdrum Prairie Area Transportation Study was nearing completion. Representatives from ITD District 1, KMPO, ITD headquarters, and FHWA reviewed the alternative routes and discussed the requirements and timeline for moving the study into the environmental process. Ms. Marienau had also begun seeking feedback from local jurisdictions and anticipated holding an agency workshop.

Ms. Marienau reported that FHWA had determined KMPO was out of compliance with the five-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update requirement. As a result, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was frozen until compliance was restored. Existing TIP projects could proceed, but amendments and new projects could not be added.

The MTP update was expected to be completed by the end of the year following the required public comment period and reviews by KCATT and the KMPO Board.

Ms. Marienau requested Board approval to contract for technical mapping, analysis, and visualization services to help expedite the MTP update. Funding had been identified in the Unified Planning Work Program and budget.

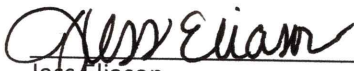
10. Board Member Comments:

Vice Chairman Randy Westlund thanked Executive Director Ali Marienau for her work during the staffing transition and for developing documented procedures to guide KMPO's processes.

11. Next Meeting: October 27, 2026

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Westlund adjourned the regular meeting of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO) Policy Board at 2:11 p.m.



Jess Eliason
Recording Secretary