

BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FOR THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
In the matter of Establishing a Process and Guidelines for Regional Policy Development

**RESOLUTION 2018-03**

**WHEREAS**, as an organization made up of cities, counties, school districts, educational institutions, special districts and tribal government in a region that enjoys active and positive regional cooperation, the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) is uniquely situated to present a unified voice on regional issues;

**WHEREAS** one of the MWVCOG's greatest strengths is the willingness and desire of our very diverse communities to work together, through MWVCOG, to create a more prosperous, accessible, livable and sustainable region that is supported by world class infrastructure, enjoys a competitive economy, and is home to healthy vibrant livable communities;

**WHEREAS** the MWVCOG is seen as a leader and trusted source of information in the areas of community development, transportation, economic development, and good governance;

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to establish a process and guidelines for developing policy positions to give the MWVCOG a unified and influential voice on state and federal policy matters, provide staff clear direction, and keep the MWVCOG's advocacy efforts focused on state and federal matters of regional significance and mutual concern among its members.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the MWVCOG:

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this resolution is to establish a process and guidelines for the Board in adopting broad policy positions that will guide the MWVCOG's efforts to educate state and federal officials on matters that are of regional significance and relate to one of the MWVCOG's core competencies: community development, transportation, economic development, and good governance. Such matters might include issues such as transportation, economic development, planning and land use, housing, or other issues that have broad impact on the region. Additionally, matters of regional significance include any issue involving the existence, funding, or scope of authority of the MWVCOG to act as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization, economic development district, affiliate agency of the US Census Bureau, small business lender, housing rehabilitation lender, state designated area commission on transportation, or generally in the best interests of its members as an intergovernmental entity under Oregon law.

Section 2. Policy Position Adoption Process

The MWVCOG Board of Directors may, at its discretion, adopt broad policy positions that are developed through input from MWVCOG staff, members, committees and other partner jurisdictions, associations, or agencies.

Annually, the Executive Director shall seek the input of staff, member jurisdictions, and existing committees to develop recommendations on policy positions for the Board's consideration and adoption at its June board meeting. Policies may be proactive or defensive in nature. Such policies, when adopted, will guide the MWVCOG's advocacy efforts for the following fiscal year.

As part of the policy development process, the Board may also appoint policy committees that are focused on a particular issue or area to develop recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Recognizing that new issues might emerge and that existing issues can evolve quickly over the course of a year, the Board designates the Executive Committee to serve as a standing interim advocacy committee, and delegates to the Executive Committee the authority to adopt new policy positions in relation to emerging issues and modify existing policy positions to meet changing circumstances. The Executive Committee shall provide periodic reports to the Board on its activities and policy positions taken or modified.

### Section 3. Policy Position Guidelines.

The policy positions adopted by the Board, or when necessary the Executive Committee; unless addressing specific bills, funding issues, or legislative or statutory corrections; should be broad and, to be considered, a policy position must:

1. Relate to the MWVCOG's existence, funding, or scope of authority; or relate to one of the core competencies of the MWVCOG: community development, transportation, economic development, or empowering local government;
2. Be within the MWVCOG's ability to influence and effectuate a policy decision;
3. Be regional in nature;
4. Be germane to the Mid-Willamette Valley region; and
5. Be in the best interest of MWVCOG and supported by a consensus of the Board or Executive Committee members.

MWVCOG will not take a policy position on a matter:

1. That is singularly focused on the interests of just one member; or
2. That is unnecessarily duplicative of a position and efforts of a statewide association representing local government interests.

### Section 4. Advocacy

Positions adopted in accordance with this policy shall guide staff and member jurisdiction appointed and elected officials when acting on behalf of the MWVCOG.

The Board may, at its discretion, convene legislators from the Mid-Willamette Valley, as well as state and federal elected officials, to discuss policy, priorities, and strategies in support of member jurisdictions and MWVCOG programs.

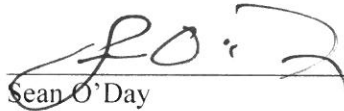
The MWVCOG will strive in its advocacy to be consistent and supportive of the positions taken by the statewide associations that represent local governments, to include the League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon School Boards Association, and Special Districts Association of Oregon.

### Section 5. Limitations

MWVCOG will not use revenues derived from federal or state sources for the development or advocacy of its policy positions.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments at Salem, Oregon this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

ATTEST

  
Sean O'Day  
Executive Director

  
Cathy Clark, Chair  
COG Board of Directors