

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION  
POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES  
MARCH 9, 2016

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Bob Bromley, Tom Jones, Rud Browne, Kathy Berg,  
Terry Bornemann, Michael McAuley, Jon Mutchler,  
Tim Ballew, Paul Greenough, Jay Drye, Harry  
Robinson

GUESTS: Terry Terry, Todd Carlson, Pete Stark, Matt Jensen,  
Tyler Schroeder, Greg Young, Nicolas Lewis

STAFF: Bob Wilson, Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Lethal Coe III,  
Leslye O'Shaughnessy

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm and  
introductions were made.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION:** Korthuis moved, Jones seconded, to approve the  
agenda as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

D. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Jones moved, Ballew seconded, to approve the  
minutes from January 20, 2016.

**MOTION PASSED**

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Coe stated that the Public Hearing is being held to amend the 2016 Whatcom Transportation Improvement Program to include the following changes:

1. Remove City of Bellingham's Bloedel Avenue, Phase 2 project.
2. Amend City of Bellingham's Granary Avenue and Bloedel Avenue project name, description, funding and termini. The project's updated name is Granary Avenue and Laurel Street. The project incorporates the locally funded previous Bloedel Avenue, Phase 2, with additional local funds, into this current federally funded project. The federal Demonstration funds remain unchanged.
3. Amend City of Lynden's Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Extension to add awarded State Grant funds of \$291,000. In addition, project phases have been adjusted to match the updated Local Agency Agreement supplement with no changes to original total funding of Transportation Alternative Program and Safe Routes to School.
4. Remove WSDOT project SR 9/Van Zandt - Railroad Crossing Improvements. Construction was obligated in 2015.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:36 pm**

**MOTION:** Korthuis moved, McAuley seconded, to close the Public Hearing.

**MOTION PASSED**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:37**

**MOTION:** Korthuis moved, Robinson seconded, to approve amendment #2 (1603) to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION PASSED**

F. OLD BUSINESS

None reported.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Comprehensive Plan Certification Review Guidelines

**MOTION:** Korthuis moved, Browne seconded, to adopt the Development and Evaluation Process for Comprehensive Plan Transportation Elements as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

H. REPORTS

H.1 Planning Director

Conroy reported that along with working on the comprehensive plan certification process the WSDOT Corridor Sketch Initiative has been very complimentary to the update of the WCOG transportation plan. He distributed a timeline for the WCOG transportation plan (now called Whatcom Mobility 2040). The Plan update deadline is June 2017.

He encouraged the board members to go to the WCOG website and check out the interactive map of our region's transportation facilities that is based on an ArcGIS web portal that staff has been working on.

WCOG, in conjunction with CTAG, is looking at hosting workshops on a variety of topics. The first would be on alternative finance mechanisms for transportation.

A Regional Border Planning peer exchange is being "sponsored" by the U.S.-Canada Transportation Border Working Group (TBWG) on June 8-9, 2016 in Bellingham. The primary objective is to share best practices among regional entities. Conroy sees this also as an opportunity to refresh the policy-basis for both the U.S. and Canada's direct federal-level support for regionally coordinated

planning for borders and to advocate for dedicated funding like that which was available under the Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) program.

The Mobility Management project is getting off the ground. This is a project to get children and seniors familiar with our transit system. 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms around the county will be getting a course in using transit to make trips, map routes and suing the bus schedules. Then with permission of a parent, these students will receive a complimentary WTA bus pass. The senior component has begun and is providing travel training for senior citizens and focuses on transit services. This project is supported by a \$250,000 Federal Transit Administration grant.

The Unified Planning Work Program 27017 update is underway. A draft document will be ready for WSDOT/Federal review March 21, 2016. Staff will be meeting with WSDOT and federal agency representative on May 9 to review the document. Policy Board members will receive an invitation to attend this meeting. The Policy Board will be asked to adopt the document at the May 11, 2016 meeting.

## H.2 Legislative Report

The legislative session was scheduled to end March 10, 2016 but is not going to happen. The transportation budget should be acted on by March 10. In the transportation budget the \$45 million for Exit 274 was completely defunded. \$40 million will be going to the Guide Meridian and the remaining \$5 million plus the \$3 million originally slated for the pedestrian overpass will be going to build an overpass at Thornton Road. There will be an additional unidentified \$10 million going to the Thornton Road project.

The Council board asked the legislature for funding (\$77,000) for preliminary engineering for the Kendall trail project. Representative VanWerven got the project in the House capital budget and Senator Ericksen has it in the Senate version. Whatcom County has agreed to maintain a trail if it is built.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Satpal Sidhu forwarded a letter he received from Mike Brennan regarding the traffic conditions in in the eastern part of the County.

CTAG passed a unanimous motion supporting Hopelink's Inclusive Planning Impact Grant Application. They are seeking funding to develop an I-5 medical corridor shuttle program that would link Bellingham (and Whatcom County) with major hospitals in Seattle.

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Nothing reported.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

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Robert Bromley  
Chair

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Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Executive Director