WHATCOM TRANPORTATION
POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 13, 2016

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Bob Bromley, Terry Bornemann, Jack Louws, Shasta Cano-Martin, Kathy Berg, Tom Jones, Michael McAuley, Kimberly Perry, Todd Carlson, Paul Greenough, Rud Browne, Scott Korthuis, Harry Robinson, Kelli Linville

GUESTS: Pete Stark, Satpal Sidhu, Kirk Vinish, Terry Terry

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. and introductions were made.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

D. MINUTES

Minor grammatical corrections were requested by Wilson.

MOTION: Korthuis moved, Bornemann seconded, to approve the minutes from May 11, 2016 with corrections.
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. Add $1.6 million of Local Funds to existing Bellingham project: *West Maplewood Avenue Multimodal Improvements*. The project is funded through the federal Safe Routes to

School program. Preliminary Engineering is set to begin in 2016 and Construction in 2017.

2. Add new WSDOT project: *I-5/SR 11 Vicinity to SR 548 Vicinity – Cable Barrier Upgrade*. The project is funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program and will replace existing 3-strand cable barriers with high-tension 4-strand cable barriers along sections of I-5. Preliminary Engineering is set to begin in 2016 and Construction in 2017.

3. Add new WSDOT project: *SR 539/Ten Mile Road Vicinity to Nooksack Overflow Bridge – Cable Barrier.* The project is funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program and will replace existing 3-strand cable barriers with high-tension 4-strand cable barriers along sections of SR 539. Preliminary Engineering is set to begin in 2016 and Construction in 2017.

4. Add WCOG's *Unified Planning Work Program – State Fiscal Years 2017 & 2018,* funded through the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

5. Add new WCOG project – *Booth Status Data Integration Project.* The project was awarded competitive grant funding through the Federal Highway Administration. WCOG is partnering with the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enhance the existing southbound advanced traveler information system at the four Cascade Gateway ports-of-entry by improving the accuracy of wait times.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:42 pm

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

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:43

MOTION: Louws moved, Korthuis seconded, to approve amendment #4 (1607) to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2016 Transportation Improvement Program.
MOTION PASSED

F. OLD BUSINESS

None reported.

G. NEW BUSINESS

None reported.

H. REPORTS

H.1 Planning Director

The Policy Board is responsible for certifying that the local comprehensive plans' transportation elements meet the concurrency requirement of the Growth Management Act. Most are adopted or in the final stages. This will be an agenda item at the October meeting.

With the transportation elements being so close to completion staff has been able to start updating a compilation of the local jurisdictions' stated goals for *Whatcom Mobility 2040*. At this point, the top seven shared goals among the region's jurisdiction are:

1. Safety
2. Multi-modal system (transit, bike-pedestrian, modal-connectivity)
3. Efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability
4. Environmental quality
5. Access and convenience
6. Maintenance and preservation
7. Goods movement/freight.

A portion of the last Transportation Technical Advisory Group meeting was dedicated to the update of WCOG's *Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture* document.

The *Border Freight Operations* study being conducted through the International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) Program is in its last week of surveying at the border.

The IMTC hosted a *Border Master Planning Peer Exchange* on June 8 and 9 in Bellingham.

Staff participated in a meet-and-greet with Acting Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar on June 10.

Carlson said that Millar has stated on numerous occasions that adopted regional transportation plans are "WSDOT's plans."

FHWA representatives, aware that WCOG's IMTC Program has less than a year of funding left, are exploring options to provide some funding linked to development of specific planning products, such as a regional border master plan. In addition to supporting improved planning, FHWA is interested IMTC's work as a model for other regions along the U.S.-Canada border. Carlson stated that WSDOT is also discussing strategies to secure continued funding for the program, which it sees as valuable and important to the state and region.

Susan Horst has worked with several local partners to bring Charles Marohn of the advocacy group Strong Towns to Bellingham. He will give a presentation called "Curbside Chats" on October 20. Several entities including WCOG are providing the funding for this event, which will be open to the public. More information will be sent out as the date gets closer.

Cubellis reported that WCOG's Mobility Programs staff – in partnership with WTA - recently finished delivering the bus education program at seven middle schools in Whatcom County, and 489 students received a quarterly bus pass for participating in the program. Planner II Mary Anderson is also providing transit training to low income citizens, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

I. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No discussion.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:	ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
Robert Bromley	Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Chairman	Executive Director

Approved October 12, 2016