

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2016

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: VOTING: Bob Bromley (Chairman), Michael McAuley (1st Vice-Chairman), Jack Louws (2nd Vice-Chairman), Terry Bornemann, Harry Robinson, Jon Mutchler, Shasta Cano-Martin (for Timothy Ballew), Scott Korthuis, Tom Jones, Jay Drye; EX-OFFICIO: Kathy Berg, Chris Comeau

GUESTS: Todd Carlson, Matt Jensen

STAFF: Bob Wilson (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Lethal Coe, Mary Anderson

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bromley called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED

D. MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting July 13, 2016.

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

E.1 Amendment to the 2016 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendment to the 2016 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Add \$405,809 of awarded Surface Transportation Program Bridge funds to the existing Whatcom County *Roberts Road/Anderson Creek Bridge No. 249 Replacement Project*. The project includes additional local funding in the amount

of \$112,702, thus revising the project's total cost to \$1,951,200. The funds will be divided between preliminary engineering and construction.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:36 P.M.

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to close the public hearing.

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:37 P.M.

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve amendment No. 5 (1610) to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

E.2 Adoption of the 2017 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Coe presented the proposed 2017 WCOG TIP. In response to a question, he reminded the members that the TIP is a "living document" that is regularly amended throughout its term as projects are revised, added, etc.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:41 P.M.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Louws seconded, to close the public hearing.

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:42 P.M.

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2016-10-1 adopting the 2017 Whatcom Council of Governments' Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

F. OLD BUSINESS

None

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Surface Transportation Program Status

Mr. Cubellis explained that, over the past few years, the Washington State Department of Transportation has been more stringent in requiring that federal

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds that MPOs allocate to local projects be obligated in a timely manner, and that it reserves the right to rescind a region's STP funds if satisfactory progress is not made on regional projects. He added that the Whatcom region failed to meet its Federal Fiscal Year 2016 obligation target by nearly \$2-million, and that the Policy Board has the authority to reallocate STP funds to a different project when another one has remained inactive without valid justification.

Mr. Cubellis stated that there are valid reasons why the projects in question are behind and that WSDOT will likely extend WCOG's and the other MPOs' obligation deadlines for one year. At its meeting in September, the Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) unanimously passed a motion recommending that the Policy Board extend the obligation deadline for one year for those projects that did not meet the September 30, 2016 obligation deadline.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Browne seconded, to extend the obligation deadline one year (to September 30, 2017) for STP-funded projects that did not meet the September 30, 2016 deadline.

MOTION PASSED

G.2 Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Anderson described the proposed amendment to WCOG's *Employment Access and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan* and the following seven project funding requests that would be included as part of the amended plan:

1. *Mobility Management II*, \$164,200 (WCOG) – Maintain current Mobility Management grant that funds transit education for youth and seniors. Total project score: 937; Project rank: A
2. *Lummi Transit Operations*, \$200,000 (Lummi Nation) – Maintain Lummi Transit's two fixed route services on the Lummi Reservation. Total project score: 925; Project Rank: A
3. *Connecting Communities in Rural Whatcom County*, \$868,984 (Whatcom Transportation Authority) – Connect the communities of Birch Bay, Blaine, Everson, Lynden and Nooksack with accessible route-deviated service for the general public. Total project score: 860; Project rank: A
4. *Whatcom Open Sidewalks: Consolidating, Standardizing and Maintaining Bellingham Sidewalk Data*, \$50,000 (University of Washington) – Develop an open shared-access mapping tool called "AccessMapBellingham" that would enable wheelchair users, pedestrians and other sidewalk users to create individualized, ability-based trip plans. Total project score: 745; Project rank: B
5. *Eastern Whatcom County Community Connector*, \$280,280 (Nooksack Tribe) – Add a Van Zandt-Everson route. Project rank: B (project ranked in 2014)

6. *Eastern Whatcom County Community Connector Vehicle Purchase, \$240,000* (Nooksack Tribe) – Vehicle purchase to operate the service. Project rank: B (project ranked in 2014)
7. *Expanded WTA Route 72X Service, \$230,840* (Nooksack Tribe) – Add two weekday runs and one Saturday run to Kendall. Project rank: C (project ranked in 2014)

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Browne seconded, to approve the 2016 amendment to the WCOG Employment Access and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan and the prioritized list of projects as presented.

MOTION PASSED

H. REPORTS

H.1 Work Program Report

Ms. Anderson used a PowerPoint presentation to explain her various responsibilities to the members.

H.2 Whatcom Mobility 2040

Mr. Conroy described progress to date on the update to the regional and metropolitan transportation plan, offering the following:

- Since the last Policy Board meeting, a page has been set up on WCOG's website to introduce the plan update effort, link to drafts of specific sections, and invite broad community review and feedback.
- He encouraged the Policy Board to review the drafts of the introduction and the section on establishing the Region's transportation goals.

H.3 Whatcom Mobility 2040 Public Comment

No comments were offered.

H.4 Planning Director's Report

Mr. Conroy offered the following:

- Since many jurisdictions' comprehensive plan updates were still pending adoption, the Policy Board's action on certifying the plans' transportation elements will occur later than originally discussed. In the meantime, WCOG will send correspondence to the jurisdictions regarding the staff-level findings of conformity and consistency pending Policy Board certification.
- TTAG has started reviewing and considering some changes to the project application form for WCOG's 2017 call for funding proposals from the regional portion of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (formerly STP).

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson distributed a letter from Brian Lagerberg of WSDOT thanking Ms. Anderson for her presentation at the recent Washington State Public Transportation Conference.

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: _____
Robert J. Bromley
Chairman

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: _____
Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved January 18, 2017