

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES  
MAY 10, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Bob Bromley, Sumas (Chairman); Michael McAuley, Port of Bellingham (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman); Jack Louws, Whatcom County (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman); Kelli Linville, Bellingham; Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Harry Robinson, Blaine; Jon Mutchler, Ferndale; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Tom Jones, Nooksack; Jay Drye, WSDOT; Paul Greenough, WTA; EX-OFFICIO: Luanne Van Werven, 42<sup>nd</sup> District Representative.

GUESTS Kaylee Galloway and Camorah King, Office of Rep. Suzan Del Bene; Reema Griffith, Washington State Transportation Commission; Pete Stark, WTA; Kirk Vinish, Lummi Nation; Bryan Yon, Office of Rep. Van Werven; Greg Young, City of Ferndale.

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 members of the public were in attendance.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION:** Mr. Bornemann moved, Mr. Greenough seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

D. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Mr. Bornemann moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2017.

**MOTION PASSED**

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Adoption of State Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Conroy briefly described the elements of the proposed UPWP. Referring to the section concerning tribal consultation, Mr. Vinish asked if a staff member had been designated to oversee that process, and Mr. Wilson responded that he would assign someone shortly. Mr. Conroy answered other questions posed by the members.

**MOTION:** Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve the State Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 Unified Planning Work Program for the Whatcom Metropolitan Planning Area, as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

F.2 Request for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Funding for the International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) Program

Mr. Conroy explained that administrative funding for the IMTC Program – i.e., funds used by WCOG to pay staff and the direct and indirect expenses of operating the program – will run out in December 2017. The annual cost to operate the program is about \$240,000. Since last year, Mr. Conroy has been working with the program's principal partners to develop a proposed funding formula, under which IMTC participants in both the U.S. and Canada would contribute. He reminded the Board that WSDOT had recently committed \$100,000 a year to the program for 2018 and 2019, which might influence partners like the B.C. Ministry of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and Transport Canada to contribute as well. To support IMTC in the short term, and as a further inducement to the aforementioned partners to contribute, WCOG is requesting an STBG allocation of \$40,000 per year for the next three years. Mr. Conroy then answered questions posed by the members.

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve an allocation of \$120,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant regional funding to the Whatcom Council of Governments for operation of the International Mobility and Trade Corridor Program.

**MOTION PASSED**

F.3 Appointment of Terri Hansen to the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Mr. Louws expressed his enthusiasm for the appointment of Ms. Hansen to CTAG, adding that he has known her for a long time.

**MOTION:** Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to appoint Terri Hansen to the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group as the designated member with a disability that prevents her from operating a motor vehicle.

**MOTION PASSED**

G. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment to the 2017 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described proposed TIP Amendment No. 1705:

1. Amend WTA project *Replace Paratransit Mini Buses* by adding \$132,600 of federal 5307 funds to increase the replacement of paratransit buses from four to five.
2. Add WSDOT project *Whatcom Council of Governments IMTC 17-19*. This is a standard-form agreement between WCOG and WSDOT to provide \$200,000 in Coordinated Border Infrastructure planning funds to the International Mobility and Trade Corridor Program for the 2017-2019 biennium.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:03 P.M.**

No members of the public were in attendance.

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 4:03 P.M.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1705 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION PASSED**

H. REPORTS

H.1 Whatcom Mobility 2040

Mr. Conroy informed the Board that the full draft plan is posted on the Whatcom Mobility 2040 website. He also briefly discussed the public information sessions on the plan that were held in April, at the Bellingham Farmers' Market, Kendall, Lynden and Blaine. The four sessions combined attracted about 60 people. He also reminded the members that a special meeting of the Policy Board will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup>, at which they will be asked to act on the proposed plan.

## H.2 Planning Director's Report

Mr. Conroy updated the Board on the following:

- At the last Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) meeting, WSDOT reviewed recently drafted corridor summaries resulting from stakeholder input as part of its Corridor Sketch Initiative.
- WCOG has been in discussions with WSDOT and the Skagit Council of Governments regarding joint pursuit of an origin-destination survey, especially with respect to north-south corridors such as Interstate 5 and State Route 9.
- Recent TTAG discussions have addressed the need for a regional household travel survey update.
- A meeting of the bi-national Transportation Border Working Group was held the previous week in Bellingham. Attendees included officials from Canada and the U.S., including Washington Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar, who gave the keynote address and took the border tour with the other meeting participants.

## I. PRESENTATION: WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (WSTC) ROAD USER CHARGE PILOT PROGRAM

Ms. Griffith, who serves as executive director of the WSTC, led the Board through an informative PowerPoint presentation on the pilot program, and then answered numerous questions from the members and staff.

## J. WHATCOM MOBILITY 2040 PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

## K. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson directed the Board to the letter included in the meeting packet informing WCOG that its application for a \$191,000 Mobility Management grant had been approved. Mr. Cubellis then informed the Board that Ms. Anderson had just received notification that WCOG's application to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for a Pedestrian Safety grant had also been approved.

## L. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Rep. Van Werven mentioned some of the Whatcom County projects that were funded in the 2017-2019 State Transportation Budget that was adopted by the Legislature in April.

M. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert J. Bromley  
Chairman

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Secretary

Minutes approved June 14, 2017