



Meeting Summary
July 12, 2016

Attendees:

Mary Anderson	Whatcom Council of Governments [WCOG]
Vern Yadon	KCVCPA / Kendall Chapel
Terry Terry	Lummi Island
Hugh Conroy	WCOG
Maureen McCarthy	Whatcom Transportation Authority [WTA]
Bob Wilson	WCOG
Jaymes McClain	WCOG
Bob Hendricks	Bellingham / WTA Gold Card
Isaac Post	Happy Valley, Bellingham
Kathy Berg	Birch Bay
Mathew Santos	Bellingham Technical College / CAP
Stoney Bird	York Neighborhood
Rick Nicholson	WTA
Gary Davis	Whatcom County

Member Updates

Vern Yadon reported that through the Whatcom Council of Governments [WCOG], the Kendall/Columbia Valley Connectivity Plan Association [KCVCPA] have advertising out for a request for qualifications [RFQ] for pre-engineering cost estimates for the Kendall Rd multi-use facility.

Maureen McCarthy said that due to the efforts of CTAG and the Citizen Advisory Committee [CAP], the Whatcom Transportation Authority is putting more emphasis on dispersing information about the Gold Card, which allows seniors 75 years or older to ride WTA transit without cost. They have gone to senior centers in Bellingham and Lynden as well as other locations to explain the benefits of the Gold Card.

Mary Anderson commented that many seniors who don't live in Bellingham do not want to drive downtown in order to apply for a Gold Card, so she and others who are currently working on a mobility grant are going to senior centers to get people to sign up for the card. Thirty-six (36) people signed up in Lynden and thirty (30) in Bellingham, and they expect more when they go to Blaine.

Bob Hendricks added the he is now seeing more new Gold Card members on the bus.

Gary Davis gave an update on Whatcom County's comprehensive plan, saying the plan is nearing completion. The early input they received from CTAG on their chapter 6 transportation element is still in the plan, Mr. Davis said. The county plans to have a final public hearing on August 9th. The plan could be

adopted there or could incorporate more public input before final adoption. Adoption will surpass the June 30th state deadline.

Human Service Transportation Grants – *Mary Anderson*

Mary Anderson explained that as a regional transportation planning organization [RTPO], WCOG is required by the Washington State Department of Transportation [WSDOT] to create a human services transportation plan. In 2014 WCOG adopted the Employment Access and Coordinated Human Services [EACH] plan, which looks at Whatcom County's transportation network and analyzes how well it works for people who do not drive due to age, income, or disability reasons.

Ms. Anderson continued that WSDOT is having a call for projects for human service transportation grants. She said that for this iteration of applications, WSDOT is looking for those who would be served by the grant to be part of the stakeholder committee that scores the local projects.

Ms. Anderson said she would like to see CTAG take a more active role in looking at project applications and ranking them for the grant funding. One project that was previously funded with this type of grant, for example, is Lummi Transit service. There would typically be five to seven projects from this area that would need to be ranked, she said. Ms. Anderson also explained that they are just doing a project list update this year and not an update to the human services transportation plan. The gaps in services for those people who do not drive due to age, income, or disability were identified during the plan update in 2014, when roundtables and discussions were held with stakeholders, Ms. Anderson said.

Bob Hendricks commented that veterans, especially those that are low income or homeless, having issues accessing transportation is another area that could be looked at. Mary Anderson said that there were two veterans on the stakeholder committee during the planning process in 2014, and some of those issues were identified during that process.

Hugh Conroy warned that selecting non-agency individuals who have specific transportation-related issues due to age, income, or disability to participate in stakeholder committees could weight prioritization of issues in one specific area rather than looking at the aggregate of issues that affect a broader array of individuals.

Bob Wilson reminded the group that the bylaws of CTAG encourage those under-represented individuals to participate in CTAG.

Terry Terry voiced a concern that under-represented individuals may not have a way to get to meetings, or that they may not have the capability to participate. She suggested that perhaps CTAG members could provide a ride, if needed.

Kathy Berg put to the voting members of CTAG the option to rank and prioritize projects applying for WSDOT human service transportation grants. The motion was passed unanimously.

October Meeting Date – *Mary Anderson*

Mary Anderson explained that CTAG will need to meet earlier in October now that the group is ranking projects so that there is time to compile the rankings and give the input to the WCOG policy board.

The group agreed on rescheduling October's meeting to Tuesday September 27th. Mary Anderson said she will send out notifications of the meeting change to all CTAG members. Whether the October meeting for the WTA Citizen's Advisory Committee will also be moved is to be decided.

IMTC Border Freight Operations study – *Jaymes McClain*

Jaymes McClain updated the group on WCOG's involvement in IMTC's current border data collection effort, the Border Freight Operations study [BFO]. The IMTC, or International Mobility and Trade Corridor program, is a group that meets monthly to discuss near-border transportation and trade issues in the northern Puget Sound and the Lower Mainland British Columbia area. Participants include US Customs and Border Protection [US CBP], Canada Border Services Agency [CBSA], WSDOT, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure [BC MoTI], Federal Highway Administration [FHWA], Transport Canada [TC], as well as other public and private agencies concerned with mobility through the border.

The purpose of the BFO is to observe commercial truck movements through the three main commercial ports-of-entry along Whatcom County and British Columbia – Pacific Highway in Blaine, Lynden-Aldergrove, and Sumas-Abbotsford-Huntingdon. Research assistants record commodity types, truck types, carrier companies, hazardous goods information, truck origins and destinations, and the duration of inspection and queue wait times.

Jaymes McClain said that eight students from Western Washington University were hired as research assistants and one recent graduate was hired as field supervisor last month through the Border Policy Research Institute [BPRI]. The BPRI is co-managing the project. The field crew spent two weeks observing freight movements at the Pacific Highway crossing (one week per direction of travel), one week observing movements at Lynden-Aldergrove, and currently are spending a week collecting data at Sumas-Abbotsford-Huntingdon, Mr. McClain said. Data was also collected last summer, albeit on a smaller scale.

Mr. McClain continued that at the end of the data collection effort, field supervisor Danny Edgel will clean and organize the data into a master database that will be available publicly. A report will be written detailing the project and highlighting high-level analyses.

Stoney Bird commented that in his travels by train across the border through Blaine, there have been several instances of significant down-time during inspection at the border. Hugh Conroy said that one of the eventual outcomes of the recent preclearance agreement between the US and Canada is for rail inspection to occur only once on one side of the border so that the train can roll through the border without stopping. He said that legislation in both countries still needs to be passed in order for true preclearance to occur.

Whatcom Transportation Policy Board update – *Hugh Conroy*

Hugh Conroy gave an update on the next day's Whatcom Transportation Policy Board [WTPB] meeting. Board members will be making decisions on amendments to the transportation improvement program [TIP], he said. Projects looking for TIP amendment are W Maplewood Ave multimodal improvements in Bellingham, cable barrier improvements being made by WSDOT, and an FHWA-funded project to

integrate US CBP data into BC MoTI's border wait-time reporting algorithms. WCOG will also be adding the 2017 unified planning working program [UPWP] to the TIP. The UPWP details the duties and responsibilities of WCOG staff for the fiscal year.

Update: All TIP amendments were approved.

Whatcom Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee following