

**Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
Minutes
March 11, 2026**

In Attendance (In-person or via Zoom)

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Jace Cotton; **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chair); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis; **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **Whatcom County:** Jon Scanlon; **WSDOT:** Justin Resnick; **Whatcom Transportation Authority:** Michael Lilliquist (1st Vice Chair).
Ex-officio -- Whatcom Public Utilities District No. 1: Eddy Ury.

Staff Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy (Secretary), Melissa Fanucci.

Others McBride & Bengé Public Affairs: Riley Bengé; City of Bellingham: Tim Homan; Eukia Lemaster, community member.

A. **Call to Order**

Hugh Conroy determined that there was a quorum, and Chair Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

B. **Public Comment**

None

C. **Approval of the minutes**

Motion: Mr. Lilliquist moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve the minutes of the meetings of January 21, 2026. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

D. **Old Business**

Nones

E. **Public hearing: Amendment #2 (26-03) of WCOG’s 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Coe reviewed the requested amendments. Chair Korthuis opened the public hearing at 3:35. No members of the public being present, Mr. Korthuis closed the public hearing at 3:36. Discussion: Mr. Scanlon asked if there would be TIP process related to funding of flood-response projects. Mr. Coe and Mr. Perry responded that those funds were mostly federal or state emergency funding and don’t typically go through the TIP/STIP processes.

Motion: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Lilliquist, to approve Amendment #2 (26-03). **Motion passed** with none opposed.

G. **Obligation Status Update**

Mr. Coe reviewed the status of our region’s obligations for deliveries of awarded federal funding. Ferndale’s Main St. project is potentially encountering delays with environmental permitting Mr. Coe is discussing options with project managers. If these delays do occur, another contingency option could be to award funds to Whatcom County’s Everson-Goshen Rd to obligate preliminary engineering. That project didn’t receive funding in the las STBG funding round, but it has been vetted through the regional application process and did score well. If moving project funding appears to be a good option, this can be put on the agenda for the May policy board meeting.

I. **Director’s Report**

Mr. Conroy asked Mr. Bengé to share any updates from Olympia. Mr. Bengé reviewed the recently passed state transportation budget. Of specific note was the restoration of funding for the Regional Mobility Grant Program. Mr. Lilliquist asked if there was a list of projects funded under the new budget. Mr. Bengé shared a link to the LEAP list that indicates projects known to be funded with out-year appropriations.

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Mr. Conroy reported on:

- The February International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) Program meeting in Surrey, BC and the status of border-related projects and regional initiatives.
- An overview (primary materials provided by Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations – AMPO) of the BASICS Act – a bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives for federal transportation funding reauthorization.
- Review of recently received public and stakeholder feedback.
 - Topics discussed and concerns raised at the February meeting of WCOG’s Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG).
 - Meeting with Recreation Northwest Director regarding the advancement of regional trails initiatives.
 - Meeting with Whatcom County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee member about support available for active transportation safety improvement projects.

I. **Open Forum**

Mr. Scanlon, noting earlier discussion about local comprehensive plans shared that Whatcom County has just posted its calendar of comprehensive plan council meetings. Mr. Scanlon shared the link with the board.

Mr. Scanlon also reviewed recent discussions with Mt. Baker High School staff about their advocacy for traffic safety improvements on SR 542 at Mitchell Rd. Mr. Scanlon is interested in continued discussion of this and alignment with previous efforts to improve SR 542 in this location by the Nooksack Tribe and WSDOT.

J. Mr. Korthuis adjourned the meeting at 4:17.

Signed by:

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Hugh Conroy
Secretary

Approved on May 13, 2026