

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT:** Chris Damitio; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kaylee Galloway; **WTA:** Michael Lilliquist (1st Vice Chairman) *EX-OFFICIO:* Chris Comeau, TTAG; Christine Grant, Public Utility District No. 1

GUESTS Todd Carlson, WSDOT; Jon Hutchings, Whatcom County; Michael Jones, City of Blaine; Tom McBride & Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs; Guy Occhiogrosso, Bellingham Regional Chamber

STAFF Bob Wilson (Secretary), Hugh Conroy, Melissa Fanucci, Lethal Coe

A. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Wilson determined that there was a quorum, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Wilson requested that an informational item be added to the agenda under New Business: "Legislative Update."

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment No. 22-03 to the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendments to the 2022 TIP:

- Remove Blaine project *Peace Portal Community Trail, Phase III* from the 2022 TIP due to inactivity. Following notice from the Federal Highway Administration that

the project has been inactive, as well as subsequent consultation with WSDOT and WCOG, the City decided to remove the project from the TIP, resulting in a de-obligation of \$25,000 in federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding for preliminary engineering, and the return of \$150,000 in TA construction funding, for a total of \$175,000 back into the regional TA program.

- Remove Blaine project *Bell Road and Peace Portal Lane Improvements*. This results in \$30,578 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding being de-obligated and the return of \$354,422 of unobligated STBG funds, for a total of \$385,000, which will be combined with project funding awarded by the State Legislature in a new project to be managed by WSDOT (below).
- Add new WSDOT project *SR 548/Bell Road – Intersection Improvements*, to be funded with \$385,000 of STBG funding originally awarded to the City of Blaine (above) as well as \$2.2-million of funds awarded by the State Legislature in the 2021-23 biennium, for a total project cost of \$2,585,000. The new project will include installation of a traffic signal with corresponding channelization. The \$385,000 of STBG funding will be applied to preliminary engineering and is expected to be obligated before July 31, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:38 P.M.

No members of the public were present either in the conference room or online. A Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The Bellingham Herald* on February 27, 2022, as well as in the online edition of the *Cascadia Daily News*, which provided detailed instructions on how to submit comments or register to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:38 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve Amendment No. 22-03 to the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

F. OLD BUSINESS

None

G. NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update

Mr. Wilson briefed the members on the status of the proposed “Forward Washington” transportation package currently under consideration by the State Legislature. Mr. McBride and Ms. Surur also provided comments.

H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on the region's current progress toward meeting its Federal Fiscal Year 2022 obligation target.

I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Conroy briefed the Board on recent transportation planning activities.

J. CORRESPONDENCE


No correspondence was included in the meeting packet or distributed at the meeting.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. Bosch expressed interest in a potential WTA service for Everson, Nooksack and Sumas similar to the "Lynden Hop" service. Mr. Lilliquist, who serves as chairman of WTA, suggested discussing this concept with WTA staff.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved April 13, 2022