

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Kristina Michele Martens; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Port of Bellingham:** Michael Shepherd; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT:** Chris Damitio; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kaylee Galloway *EX-OFFICIO:* Chris Comeau, TTAG; Christine Grant, Public Utility District No. 1; Sen. Simon Sefzik

GUESTS Todd Carlson, Shane Spahr, WSDOT; Jon Hutchings, Jim Karcher, Whatcom County; Tom McBride, McBride Public Affairs; Guy Occhiogrosso, Bellingham Regional Chamber; Les Reardanz, WTA; Terry Terry, Lummi Island resident

STAFF Bob Wilson (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, 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 3:33 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

C. AGENDA ADDITIONS

None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. May, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2022, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Way to Go, Whatcom

Mr. Conroy briefly described the process used to develop the draft regional long-range transportation plan, *Way to Go, Whatcom*.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:35 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 May 22, 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 3:35 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

A few revisions to the draft plan were suggested by members, for each of which there was consensus, and Mr. Conroy indicated they would be included in the approved document.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of the 2045 Whatcom Region Long-Range Transportation Plan, *Way to Go, Whatcom*

MOTION: Ms. Galloway moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to adopt *Way to Go, Whatcom* as the Whatcom Council of Governments' updated regional and metropolitan long-range transportation plan, with the revisions recommended by the members in the discussion.

MOTION PASSED

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment No. 22-06 to the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendments to the 2022 TIP, all of which are WSDOT projects:

- Add *I-5/Guide Meridian Interchange – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance* project to upgrade curb ramps to ADA standards. This project is funded through the National Highway Performance Program, with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.
- Add *I-5/Tributaries to Friday, Lake and Chuckanut Creeks – Fish Passage* project to remove and replace existing barriers with fish-passable structures. This project is funded through the Connecting Washington Account (CWA) and Washington's Coronavirus State Recovery Fund (CSRF), with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.
- Add *I-5/Baker Creek and Spring Creek – Fish Passage* project to remove and replace existing barriers with fish-passable structures. This project is funded through the CWA and CSRF, with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.

- Add State Route (SR) 539/Baker Creek project to remove and replace existing barriers with fish-passable structures. This project is funded through the CWA and CSRF, with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.
- Add SR 542/Unnamed Tributaries to High, Mitchell and Nooksack Creeks – Fish Passage project to remove and replace existing barriers with fish-passable structures. This project is funded through the CWA and CSRF, with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.
- Add SR 542/Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay – Fish Passage project to remove and replace existing barriers with fish-passable structures. This project is funded through the CWA and CSRF, with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.
- Add SR 546/Unnamed Tributary to Fishtrap Creek – Fish Passage project to remove and replace existing barriers with fish-passable structures. This project is funded through the CWA and CSRF, with construction scheduled to begin in 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:15 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 May 22, 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 4:15 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Sidhu moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve Amendment No. 22-06 to the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G. OLD BUSINESS

None

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

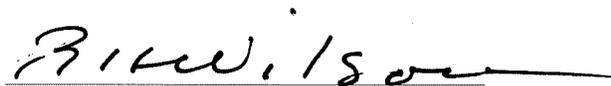
Mr. Conroy briefed the Board on recent transportation planning activities.

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Messrs. Damitio and Spahr briefed the Board on the status of the Slater Road project.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. H. Wilson" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved July 13, 2022