



MEETING OF THE  
WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 3:30 p.m.**  
Gordon W. Rogers Conference Room  
314 East Champion Street  
Bellingham, Washington

Click [here](#) to join using Zoom  
Or join by phone: (253) 215-8782

**AGENDA**

PAGES

- A. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Korthuis
- B. PUBLIC COMMENT  
Citizens may speak informally to the Board on matters pertinent to its statutory responsibilities and which are not the subject of a public hearing. *Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three minutes.*
- C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA *(if any)*
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES\*  
Meeting of June 8, 2022
- E. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1  
[Way to Go, Whatcom](#)
  - 1. Staff Presentation – Hugh Conroy
  - 2. Open Public Hearing – Citizens may address the Board on the subject of the hearing *for a maximum of three minutes each*
  - 3. Close Public Hearing\*
  - 4. Board Discussion
- F. NEW BUSINESS
  - 1. Amendments to the 2045 Whatcom Region Long-Range Transportation Plan, Way to Go, Whatcom – Mr. Conroy\*
  - 2. Request by City of Lynden to Reprogram Previously Awarded STBG Funding – Lethal Coe\*
  - 3. Other new business *(if any)*
- G. OLD BUSINESS *(if any)*
- H. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2  
Amendment No. 22-07 to the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program
  - 1. Staff Presentation – Mr. Coe
  - 2. Open Public Hearing – Citizens may address the Board on the subject of the hearing *for a maximum of three minutes each*

- H. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2 (*continued*)
  - 3. Close Public Hearing\*
  - 4. Board Discussion and Vote\*
- I. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE – Mr. Coe
- J. PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Mr. Conroy
- K. BOARD OPEN FORUM
- L. ADJOURN

*\* Action item*



## **Notice to the Public Regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

WCOG hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the agency to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which WCOG receives federal financial assistance.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with WCOG. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the WCOG Title VI Coordinator within one-hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. Title VI Discrimination Complaint Forms may be obtained from the WCOG at no cost and are available on WCOG's website.

## **Aviso al Público Sobre Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964**

Por medio de la presente, el WCOG notifica de manera pública que la política del organismo es garantizar el pleno cumplimiento del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Recuperación de Derechos Civiles de 1987, el Decreto Presidencial 12898 sobre Justicia Ambiental, el Decreto Presidencial 13166 sobre Dominio Limitado del Idioma Inglés, así como los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados en todos los programas y actividades. De acuerdo con lo estipulado en el Título VI, ningún individuo de los Estados Unidos de América deberá, con fundamento en su raza, color, sexo o nacionalidad, ser excluido de participar en, que se le nieguen los beneficios de, o ser víctima de discriminación en virtud de cualquier programa o actividad por el cual el WCOG reciba fondos federales.

Toda persona que se considere agraviada por una práctica discriminatoria e ilícita en virtud del Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una denuncia formal ante el WCOG. Cualquier denuncia de este tipo debe presentarse por escrito ante el coordinador del Título VI del WCOG en un periodo de 180 días naturales a partir de la fecha de la presunta discriminación. El WCOG pone a disposición del público los formularios de denuncia del Título VI de manera gratuita en su página web.

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES – DRAFT  
JUNE 8, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Kristina Michele Martens; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Secretary

Approved July 13, 2022

DRAFT



## MEMO

To: Whatcom Transportation Policy Board  
From: Lethal Coe, Senior Planner  
Date: July 7, 2022  
Subject: Request to move regional STBG funding from two projects into a project

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### Request from the City of Lynden

The City of Lynden has evaluated several options to move forward with three projects currently in the WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that are programmed with WCOG awarded regional surface transportation block grant (STBG) funds. Due to escalating project costs and insufficient federal funding to warrant the challenging hurdles in right-of-way acquisition and environmental requirements, Lynden proposes the following actions to transfer STBG funding into a single project that will enable advancement of their projects in the most effective and least time-consuming way:

1. Award **\$257,770** of regional STBG funds to *Benson Rd Improvements* with the following action to be taken by Lynden to de-federalize *Main Street Corridor Completion* project:
  - Deobligate \$257,770 of 2012 STBG awarded funds including approx. \$156,000 to be reimbursed to WSDOT/Fed.
2. Transfer the remaining **\$8,437** from 2012 STBG awarded funds for *Main Street Corridor Completion* project to the *Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Rd* project. No deobligation necessary to transfer funds.
3. Transfer **\$800,000** from 2019 STBG awarded funds for *West Main Street and Berthusen Roundabout* to the *Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Rd* project. No deobligation necessary to transfer funds.

The resulting actions will move **\$1,066,207** of STBG funds into *Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Rd* and increase the available regional STBG funding to a total of \$1,866,207. Preliminary engineering is planned to begin in the spring 2023 with construction anticipated in 2024.

### Suggested Policy Board Action

Approve the reallocation of regional STBG funds for the City of Lynden as stated in this memo.





## MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom Transportation Policy Board  
From: Lethal Coe, Senior Planner  
Date: July 7, 2022  
Subject: WCOG 2022 TIP Amendment

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**Amendment #6 (22-07)** of the WCOG 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes the following new Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) projects:

1. Amend the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project *I-5/Slater Road Interchange – Improvements* to revise the preliminary engineering and construction phases, and remove the right-of-way (ROW) phase, and adjust the total project cost and update the expenditure schedule. The project will implement improvements to the northbound and southbound intersections, and the intersections of Northwest Ave, Pacific Highway and Rural Ave. The project is funded through the statewide Connecting Washington Account (CWA).
2. [Pending Policy Board action] Remove Lynden project *West Main St and Berthusen Roundabout*. This project is consolidating into Lynden’s *Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Rd*.
3. [Pending Policy Board action] Remove Lynden project *Main Street Corridor Completion* project. This project is consolidating into Lynden’s *Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Rd*.
4. [Pending Policy Board action] Amend Lynden project *Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise Dr to Badger Rd* to add regionally awarded surface transportation block grant (STBG) funds of \$442,015 to the preliminary engineering phase that is planned to begin in 2023. Construction is planning to begin as early as 2024.

Formal TIP Amendments require review and resolution from the Policy Board to amend the current TIP and make federal funding accessible.

### **Suggested Policy Board Action:**

Approve Amendment #6 of the Whatcom Council of Governments 2022 Transportation Improvement Program.

**WCOG TIP Amendment #6 (22-07) Table**

#	Agency	Project Title	Amended TIP Action	Added Funds	Total Cost	Source
1	WSDOT	<i>I-5/Slater Road Interchange – Improvements</i>	Revise PE and CN, Remove ROW	-11,053,540	21,463,313	CWA
2	Lynden	<i>West Main St and Berthusen Roundabout</i>	Remove project	-1,450,000	1,450,000	STBG
3	Lynden	<i>Main Street Corridor Completion</i>	Remove project	-1,810,754	2,108,714	STBG
4	Lynden	<i>Benson Rd Improvements, Sunrise Dr to Badger Rd</i>	Add federal funding to PE phase	442,015	3,769,000	STBG

No Policy Board Action Required for the following Administrative Modifications

**Recent or Upcoming Administrative Modifications** - Administrative modifications are less substantial project changes and are administered by WCOG staff.

Agency	Project	Modification Administered	Total Costs	Federal Source