

Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
Minutes
July 12, 2023

In Attendance (In-person or via Zoom)

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham**, Seth Fleetwood; **Everson**; John Perry; **Ferndale**: Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chair); **Lynden**: Scott Korthuis (Chair); **Nooksack**: Kevin Hester; **Sumas**: Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT**: Chris Damitio; **Whatcom County**: Kaylee Galloway; *Ex Officio*: none.

Staff Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci

Others **Port of Bellingham**, Don Goldberg; **Whatcom Transportation Authority**, Les Reardanz; **Washington State Department of Transportation**, Justin Resnick

A. Call to Order

 Melissa Fanucci determined that there was a quorum, and Chair Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

B. Public Comment

 None

C. Agenda Additions

 None

D. Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2023

Motion: Kevin Hester moved, second by Bruce Bosch, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2023, as presented.

Motion Passed

E. Old Business

 None

F. New business

1. Considering approval of the Whatcom Transportation Technical Advisory Group's (TTAG) recommended allocation of FFY '27-'29 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding.

 Lethal Coe reviewed WCOG and TTAG's process of evaluating and scoring funding proposals and the resulting project-award list from the TTAG. Coe answered questions from the members.

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Motion: Greg Hansen moved, seconded by Bruce Bosch, to approve allocation of FFY 2027-2029 regional STBG and TA program funds as recommended by the Whatcom TTAG.

Motion Passes

2. Certification of upcoming City of Ferndale amendment to the transportation element of its 2016 comprehensive plan.

Lethal Coe reviewed WCOG's Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) responsibility for certifying local comprehensive plan transportation elements and also, per WCOG's adopted certification process, recertifying interim amendments to transportation elements. Referring to the memo in the packet, Coe reviewed the changes Ferndale is making and WCOG staff assessment that the transportation element is still consistent with the regional plan and conforming to Washington Growth Management Act requirements.

Motion: Greg Hansen moved, seconded by Bruce Bosch, to certify the pending amendment of the City of Ferndale's Comprehensive Plan transportation element..

Motion Passed

Kaylee Galloway requested a meeting with WCOG staff or arrangement of time on a future meeting agenda to review the RTPO comprehensive plan certification process. Scott Korthuis agreed that this would be a good idea.

3. City of Bellingham request to transfer previously awarded STBG funds to another project.

Lethal Coe reviewed the memo in the packet, explaining Bellingham's decision to defederalize the *James/Bakerview Intersection Improvements* project and transfer the STBG funds previously awarded to this project to the *Telegraph Rd Multimodal Improvements* project.

Motion: Seth Fleetwood moved, seconded by Kevin Hester, to approve the transfer of regional STBG funds for the City of Bellingham as requested.

Motion Passed

Public hearing

Amendment No. 23-05 to the 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendment to the 2023 TIP:

Add Whatcom County's project Lummi Island Ferry System Modernization & Preservation that was awarded by Moving Ahead Washington to replace the ferry vessel with a new hybrid diesel-electric vessel as well as modify the terminal and improve

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operations. The total project cost is estimated at just over \$50 million. The preliminary engineering phase will begin in 2023.

Public Hearing Opened at 3:46

No public comment was offered.

Public Hearing Closed at 3:47 P.M. by unanimous consent.

Motion: Seth Fleetwood moved, second by Greg Hansen, to approve Amendment No. 23-05 to the 2023 WCOG TIP, as presented.

Motion Passes

H. Obligations Status Update

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on the region's current progress toward meeting its Federal Fiscal Year 2023 obligation target.

I. Director's Report

Hugh Conroy announced the recent hire of Libby Chenault as Education Coordinator for the Smart Trips Program. Conroy asked Chris Damitio to introduce Justin Resnick, the WSDOT Mount Baker Area's new Planning & Engineering Services Manager (replacing Todd Carlson who retired at the end of June). Conroy briefed the board on recent transportation planning activities.

J. Board Open Forum

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Hugh Conroy
Secretary

Approved October 11, 2023