

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES – **DRAFT**
OCTOBER 12, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

- MEMBERS **VOTING: Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Kristina Michele Martens; **Blaine:**
Ferndale: Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis
(Chairman); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT:** Chris
Damitio; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kathy Kershner (alternate for Kaylee
Galloway); **WTA:** Michael Lilliquist *EX-OFFICIO:* Chris Comeau, City of
Bellingham; Christine Grant, Public Utility District No. 1
- GUESTS Todd Citron, Council Board; Jon Hutchings, City of Bellingham; Les Reardanz,
WTA; Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs; 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 3:31 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

C. AGENDA ADDITIONS

None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 13, 2022, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1

Amend *Way to Go, Whatcom*

Mr. Conroy described the following proposed amendments to the metropolitan and regional transportation plan (M/RTP) to the Board:

- Requested updates to terminology (e.g., active transportation)
- Requested transportation system category changes (e.g., school buses not transit)

- Consolidation of WCOG program discussions in one section.
- Reorganization of header hierarchy in Section 6 – Strategies
- Inclusion of mobility strategy that was accidentally deleted from previous PDF version of the plan (was in the primary, web-based plan document).
- Addition of a “cross-border transportation resiliency” strategy.
- Project List: Two changes to completion-year estimates and two wording changes to WSDOT safety projects.
- Use of verbatim FHWA definitions for maintenance and preservation in Section 8 – Finance.
- Wording changes to reflect that Move Ahead Washington was passed.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:38 P.M.

Chairman Korthuis asked if any members of the public were participating via the Zoom link and wanted to offer comments, to which there was no response.

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

MOTION: Ms. Martens moved, seconded by Ms. Kershner, to approve the amendments to *Way to Go, Whatcom*, the adopted M/RTP, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

F. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2

Adopt WCOG Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)

Ms. Fanucci explained why WCOG prepares an HSTP and described the draft to the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:41 P.M.

Chairman Korthuis asked if any members of the public were participating via the Zoom link and wanted to offer comments, to which there was no response.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:41 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve the WCOG Human Services Transportation Plan, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

G. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 3

Amendment No. 22-10 to the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendment to the TIP:

1. Amend the Whatcom Transportation Authority program *Replace Fixed Route Buses* to increase the total estimated cost from \$5,153,204 to \$10,427,004, change the federal funding source to the recently awarded Federal Transit Administration 5339 grant, and change the bus replacements from diesel to electric. The acquisition is scheduled for late 2022 or early 2023.
2. Amend the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project *SR 542/Unnamed Tributaries to Ahigh, Mitchell & Nooksack Creeks – Fish Passage* to increase the phase funding for preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction to a total project cost increase of \$6,566,210. The project is funded through the statewide Connecting Washington Account and Coronavirus State Recovery Fund. Construction is planned for 2023.
3. Amend WSDOT project *NWR Breakaway Cable Terminal Replacement 21-23* to increase construction funding by \$1,395,729 through the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program. This project will remove and replace guardrails to meet current standards.
4. Add new WSDOT project *SR 542/Cornell Creek – Bridge Deck Overlay* that will repair and resurface existing bridge deck to extend the life of the bridge. This project is being funded through federal statewide Surface Transportation Block Grant program funds. Construction is planned to begin in 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:48 P.M.

Chairman Korthuis asked if any members of the public were participating via the Zoom link and wanted to offer comments, to which there was no response.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:48 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Mr. Lilliquist, to approve Amendment No. 22-10 to the 2022 WCOG TIP, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

H. PUBLIC HEARING NO. 4

Adopt 2023 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Coe described the proposed 2023 TIP to the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:52 P.M.

Chairman Korthuis asked if any members of the public were participating via the Zoom link and wanted to offer comments, to which there was no response.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:52 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Ms. Kershner moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve the 2023 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

I. NEW BUSINESS

WCOG Obligation Authority Management Policy

Mr. Coe explained the rationale behind the proposed policy and answered questions posed by the representatives.

MOTION: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to approve the WCOG Obligation Authority Management Policy, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

J. OLD BUSINESS

None

K. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

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

L. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

M. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered for the good of the order.

N. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approval scheduled for December 14, 2022