



WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

Gordon W. Rogers Conference Room

314 East Champion Street

Bellingham, Washington

**AGENDA**

PAGES

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- 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. AGENDA APPROVAL\*
- 2-5 D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES\*  
Meeting of January 17, 2018
- E. OLD BUSINESS
- 6-7 F. PUBLIC HEARING  
Amend the 2018 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - 1. Staff Presentation – Lethal Coe
  - 2. Open Public Hearing – Citizens may address the Board on the subject of the hearing *for a maximum of three minutes.*
  - 3. Close Public Hearing\*
  - 4. Board Discussion
- 8-9 G. NEW BUSINESS
  - 1. TIP Amendment No. 1802\*
  - 2. Recognition of Kathy Berg – Bob Wilson\*
  - 3. Other New Business (if any)
- H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE – Lethal Coe
- I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Hugh Conroy
- 10 J. CORRESPONDENCE
- K. BOARD OPEN FORUM
- L. ADJOURN

\* Action item

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES – DRAFT  
January 17, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Jon Mutchler, Ferndale (Chairman); Tom Jones, Nooksack (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman); Jack Louws, Whatcom County (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman); Kelli Linville and Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Bonnie Onyon, Blaine; Jeremiah Julius, Lummi Nation; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Todd Carlson (for Jay Drye), WSDOT; Michael Lilliquist, WTA; EX-OFFICIO: Terry Terry, CTAG; Chris Comeau, TTAG

GUESTS Kathy Berg, CTAG; L.W. Brown, Sudden Valley Association; Tony Hillaire and Kirk Vinish, Lummi Nation

STAFF Bob Wilson (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Lethal Coe

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mutchler called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the agenda.

**MOTION PASSED**

D. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 11, 2017.

**MOTION PASSED**

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Amend the 2018 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described proposed TIP Amendment No. 1801, to which was added a seventh item not included on the table in the meeting packet.

1. Add new Whatcom County project *Guardrail Safety Program*. This project will install guardrails at various sites countywide and is funded through the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) – Guardrail Safety Program. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$910,000.
2. Add new Bellingham project *State-Ellis Bridge Replacement*. This project removes and replaces the existing bridge and is funded through the federal 2017 Local Bridge Program. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$3,426,355.
3. Add new WSDOT project *NWR Breakaway Cable Terminal Replacement – Non-Interstate 17-19*. This project removes and replaces guardrails that do not meet current standards and is funded through the federal HSIP. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$11,599.
4. Add new WSDOT project *NWR Breakaway Cable Terminal Replacement – Interstate 17-19*. This project removes and replaces guardrails that do not meet current standards and is funded through the federal HSIP. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$151,107.
5. Add new WSDOT project *Region-wide Shoulder Rumble Strip Installation (17-19)*. This project will install rumble strips at various locations and is funded through the federal HSIP. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$106,116.
6. Amend current WSDOT project *SR 20/Newhalem to Lillian Creek – Rumble Strip Installation* to increase funding for the PE and CN phases by \$751,083. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$1,881,702.
7. Delete Construction phase of WSDOT project *SR 542/SR 9 East Junction – Intersection Improvements*. Construction was programmed for 2018 as a precaution in case the project did not meet its anticipated obligation in late 2017, but it actually obligated in October 2017. Total deletion: \$1,193,136 (CN).

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:42 P.M.**

No comments were offered.

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Louws seconded, to close the public hearing.

**MOTION PASSED**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:43 P.M.**

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 TIP Amendment No. 1801

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1801 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION PASSED**

G.2 Adopt 2018 WCOG Cost Allocation Plan

Mr. Cubellis explained the requirement for having a cost allocation plan, and how it was developed. He then answered questions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the Whatcom Council of Governments 2018 Cost Allocation Plan, as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

G.3 Adopt Washington's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Target

Mr. Conroy explained the need for the Region to adopt the state's HSIP target and answered questions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Lilliquist seconded, to adopt Washington's Highway Safety Improvement Program target, and to plan and program projects that contribute to reaching that target (known as "Target Zero"), in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's safety performance rules.

**MOTION PASSED**

G.4 Appointment of Mark Robbins to the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group

Mr. Wilson directed the representatives' attention to the e-mails from Mark Robbins (requesting an appointment) and Arthur Reber (resigning his CTAG seat) that were included in the meeting packet.

**MOTION:** Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to appoint Mark Robbins of Point Roberts to the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group.

**MOTION PASSED**

H. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Coe provided the Board an update on the obligation status of regional projects, which Mr. Wilson said would be a regular agenda item at future Policy Board meetings. Mr. Conroy briefed the Board on MPO planning requirements that will require adoption this year, current and pending projects, and program and planning activities.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Although no correspondence was included in the meeting packet, Mr. Wilson informed the Board that he had been notified recently that the City of Bellingham and the Port of Bellingham had each been awarded federal railway crossing safety funds. The City received \$690,000 for the rail crossing at F Street, and the Port received \$350,000 for the crossing at Harris Avenue in Fairhaven.

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered by the representatives.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

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Jon Mutchler  
Chairman

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Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Secretary



whatcom council of governments

## MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom Transportation Policy Board  
From: Lethal Coe, Senior Planner  
Date: March 6, 2018  
Subject: WCOG 2018 TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications

**Amendment 2 (1803)** of the 2018 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes the following:

1. Add new Bellingham project *F Street Crossing*. This rail crossing project will improve gates, pedestrian, bicycle, and travel lane channelization. Funded through federal Highway Crossing Program (Section 130), construction will begin 2019.
2. Add new Port of Bellingham project *Harris Ave Crossing*. This rail crossing will improve pedestrian, bicycle, and travel lane channelization. The project will also relocate the Marine Park entrance to allow installation of center medians. Funded through federal Highway Crossing Program (Section 130), construction will begin 2019.
3. Add new WCOG project *IMTC Passenger Vehicle Survey*. This project will sample-survey interview approximately 10,000 drivers crossing through the five Cascade border crossings over the summer and winter seasons (April 2018 – April 2019). Conducted by WCOG staff, Western Washington University's (WWU) Border Policy Research Institute (BPRI) staff, and student field interviewers hired by BPRI, this project will be funded by FHWA (\$66,116), British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BPRI, and WCOG.
4. Amend WTA project *REPLACE (APPROX. 6) PARATRANSIT MINI BUSES*. The project will increase mini bus replacement from six to eight buses.
5. Amend WSDOT project *I-5/Squalicum Creek to SR 539 – Bridge Deck Overlays* to add construction phase. The project is funded through National Highway Performance Program and construction will begin in 2019.

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

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve Amendment 2 for the Whatcom Council of Governments 2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

**Amendment 2 (1803) Table**

#	Agency	Project Title	Amended Action	Added Funds \$	Total Costs \$	Fed Source
1	Bellingham	<i>F Street Crossing</i>	Add new project	730,000	730,000	Highway Crossing Program
2	Port of Bellingham	<i>Harris Ave Crossing</i>	Add new project	388,889	388,889	Highway Crossing Program
3	WCOG	<i>IMTC Passenger Vehicle Survey</i>	Add new project	132,232	132,232	FHWA Discretionary
4	WTA	<i>REPLACE (APPROX. 6) PARATRANSIT MINI BUSES.</i>	Increase mini bus purchase from six to eight	250,000	1,000,000	5307
5	WSDOT	<i>I-5/Squalicum Creek to SR 539 – Bridge Deck Overlays</i>	Add CN phase	748,156	840,135	NHPP

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**Recent Non-Amendment TIP Activities** - administrative modifications are less substantial project changes that do not require Policy Board action and are administered by WCOG staff.

**Administrative Modifications – 1802 and 1803**

Agency	Project	Modification Administered	Total Costs	Federal Source
Bellingham	<i>State-Ellis Bridge Replacement</i>	Add funds to equal awarded amount	3,961,104	STP(BR)
WSDOT	SR 20/Newhalem to Lillian Creek – Rumblestrip Installation	Remove obligated PE phase	1,881,702	STP
<b>WSDOT</b>	SR 20/Cascade Rd Vic to Goodell Creek Campground – Rumblestrip	Remove PE phase update CN phase	192,088	HSIP



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**MEMORANDUM**

To: The Whatcom Transportation Policy Board  
From: Bob Wilson, Secretary  
Date: March 7, 2018  
Subject: **Certificate of Appreciation for Kathy Berg**

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Kathy Berg, who served as chairwoman of the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group since 2008, relinquished the chair at CTAG's January meeting, although she remains a member. Kathy joined CTAG in 2005 and served as vice-chair for a year before assuming the chair. Her commitment to and enthusiasm for CTAG is second to no one's, and I have no doubt that the Policy Board greatly appreciates Kathy's ongoing contribution to our region's transportation planning process.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Move to recognize the dedicated service of Kathy Berg in her capacity as chairwoman of the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group from 2008 through 2017 by presenting her with a Certificate of Appreciation, with the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board's most sincere thanks and deepest appreciation.





Whatcom Transportation Policy Board

# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

**KATHY BERG**

For Her Dedicated Service As

Chairwoman of the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group

2008 – 2017

On this, the Fourteenth Day of March, Two Thousand and Eighteen

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Jon Mutchler, Chairman

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Robert H. Wilson, Secretary



February 5, 2018

Joint Transportation Committee  
Washington State Legislature  
The State Capitol, Olympia

RE: **Senate Bill 6440, An Act Relating to an I-5/Exit 274 Interchange Project**

Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Whatcom Council of Governments is the state-designated regional transportation planning organization for Whatcom County and also serves as the federally-recognized metropolitan planning organization for the Bellingham Urbanized Area. As such, WCOG carries out the regional and metropolitan transportation-planning processes in Whatcom County pursuant to the Growth Management Act and federal statutes. In October of 2017, WCOG's Board acted unanimously to request of our legislative delegation that it pursue funding in the current session for long-needed improvements to the Exit 274 interchange in the City of Blaine.

This request was necessitated by the defunding in 2016 of the \$45-million approved for Exit 274 interchange improvements in *Connecting Washington*, and the Governor's veto of a \$12-million project at this location that was included in the adopted State Transportation Budget in 2017. At the urging of the Governor's Office, the City of Blaine, WSDOT and WCOG recently engaged in a "practical solutions" planning process to address the lack of southbound access to Blaine's city center from I-5 south of Exit 276, deficient freeway access to the Blaine Industrial Area, and congestion on local roads. That process established a preferred alternative that must now be analyzed in an "Interchange Justification Report" (IJR) – which is a requirement of the Federal Highway Administration – and a concurrent environmental analysis.

Senate Bill 6440 would provide the funding necessary to complete the federally-required IJR and the environmental analysis. Therefore, the Whatcom Council of Governments respectfully requests the Committee's support for SB 6440. On behalf of my Board, I thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert H. Wilson".

Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Executive Director

Copy: Council Board, Whatcom Council of Governments