

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Bob Bromley, Sumas (Chairman); Michael McAuley, Port of Bellingham (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman); Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Harry Robinson, Blaine; Jon Mutchler, Ferndale; Timothy Ballew II, Lummi Nation; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Tom Jones, Nooksack; Jay Drye, WSDOT; Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County; EX OFFICIO: Kathy Berg, CTAG

GUESTS Todd Carlson, WSDOT; Pete Stark, WTA

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bromley called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved, Mr. McAuley seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

D. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Mr. Bornemann moved, Mr. McAuley seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2017.

**MOTION PASSED**

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Adoption of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Application

Mr. Conroy explained the need for and process of updating the application used by WCOG'S member jurisdictions to apply for funding through the federal STBG Program, which was formerly known as the Surface Transportation Program (STP).

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the application form for WCOG's 2017 Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternatives project selection process, as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

F.2 STBG Program Award Modifications

Mr. Conroy explained that over the past few years, the Federal Highway Administration has been rigid in requiring the states to ensure that STBG/STP-funded projects advance, at the risk of losing the unobligated funds to other states if they fail to do so. Accordingly, WSDOT expects regions and local governments to meet their own STBG obligation targets, or they, too, will be subject to forfeiture of their unobligated STBG funding to other regions in the State. He also reminded the Board that the Whatcom Region failed to meet its obligation target in 2016, and the unobligated portion was added to the Region's 2017 target, bringing it to more than \$5-million. To assist in meeting the 2017 target and avoid forfeiture, Bellingham and Whatcom County have agreed to make the following project modifications, pending Policy Board approval:

- *Horton Road Phase 1* (\$2.7-million awarded to Bellingham in 2015) and the *Mahogany Avenue Arterial* (\$1.25-million awarded to Bellingham in 2013) – Exchange up to \$1.75-million of STP funds awarded to Horton Road Phase 1 for a matching amount of local funds that the City of Bellingham has authorized for the Mahogany project. Construction of the Mahogany project is scheduled for spring and summer of 2017, while Horton Road will not go to construction until 2020.
- *Horton Road Phase 2* (\$1-million awarded to Whatcom County in 2015) – Both phases of the Horton Road project were submitted in 2015 as a joint application from Bellingham and Whatcom County, and the two jurisdictions are currently developing an inter-agency agreement to make Bellingham the lead on the project. Policy Board approval of this modification will facilitate the obligation of the STP funds awarded to the County.

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve modifications to 2015 STP funding awards: 1) Transfer up to \$1.75-million from Horton Road Phase 1

to the Mahogany Avenue Arterial project, to be replaced with the same amount of local funds that the City of Bellingham has designated for the Mahogany Avenue Arterial, and; 2) Change the lead agency for Horton Road Phase 2 from Whatcom County to the City of Bellingham, pending execution of an inter-agency agreement.

**MOTION PASSED**

F.3 Approval of 2017 Cost Allocation Plan

Mr. Cubellis explained the purpose of the Cost Allocation Plan, and also that WSDOT, beginning this year, is requiring the policy boards of every metropolitan planning organization in the State to approve their respective cost allocation plans.

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the Whatcom Council of Governments 2017 Cost Allocation Plan, as presented.

**MOTION PASSED**

F.4 Certification of Local Comprehensive Plans' Transportation Elements

Mr. Conroy explained to the Board that as a regional transportation planning organization, WCOG is required under State law to certify that the transportation elements of Whatcom County's and the seven cities' comprehensive plans conform to the requirements of the Growth Management Act and are consistent with the Whatcom Transportation Plan. He then went on to explain the process by which WCOG's staff reviewed each of the transportation elements, and that subsequently, the staff determined that all of them should be certified by the Board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bornemann moved, Mr. McAuley seconded, that the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board certifies that the transportation elements of all of the Whatcom Region's jurisdictions conform to the requirements of the Growth Management Act and are consistent with the Whatcom Transportation Plan.

**MOTION PASSED**

G. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment to the 2017 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described proposed TIP Amendment No. 1703:

Add new WSDOT project: *I-5/Tributary to California Creek – Fish Passage*. This \$4-million project – funded primarily through the National Highway Performance Program – will remove an existing fish passage barrier and replace it with a passable

structure. Only Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-way phases are included; the Construction phase will be programmed after 2020.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:04 P.M.**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 4:05 P.M.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1703 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION PASSED**

H. REPORTS

H.1 International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) Program Overview

Ms. Fanucci led the Board through a PowerPoint presentation on the IMTC Program.

H.2 Whatcom Mobility 2040

Mr. Conroy informed the Board that additional sections of the plan have been posted on WCOG's website, and he encouraged them to read them and share their thoughts with him. He added that the regional strategy section will be posted soon. There will be four meetings in April to elicit comments from the public; they will be held in Bellingham, Blaine, Everson and Kendall. A dedicated website has been developed for the plan, and all of the materials currently on WCOG.org will be migrated to the new site, which will be linked to WCOG.org. He concluded by reminding the Board that adoption of the plan is scheduled for its May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

H.3 Planning Director's Report

Mr. Conroy updated the Board on the following:

- Pedestrian safety grant – Staff will work with jurisdictions on public education and design strategies
- Easter Seals grant – WCOG was awarded a \$100,000 grant for accessible transportation. The grant will fund issue definition, planning, community events and a few projects.

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – The Federal Highway Administration and WSDOT will be at WCOG on April 25<sup>th</sup> for the annual UPWP review meeting, and the Policy Board will be asked to adopt it at its May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Staff from the Washington State Transportation Commission will make a presentation on its upcoming “Road User Charge” pilot project at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting.
- The Transportation Border Working Group will meet in Bellingham on May 2-3. Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar will attend, and the Governor’s Office may send someone, too. Due to the upcoming elections in British Columbia, no provincial officials will be able to attend.

I. WHATCOM MOBILITY 2040 PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. Drye described a public meeting he and Mr. Carlson had recently attended in Glacier.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert J. Bromley  
Chairman

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Secretary

Approved May 10, 2017