

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES  
July 12, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Michael McAuley, Port of Bellingham (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman); Jack Louws, Whatcom County (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman); Kelli Linville, Bellingham; Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Harry Robinson, Blaine; Celina Phair (for Timothy Ballew), Lummi Nation; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Tom Jones, Nooksack; Jay Drye, WSDOT; EX-OFFICIO: Kathy Berg, CTAG; Chris Comeau, TTAG

GUESTS Todd Carlson, Paul Krueger, Kathy Murray and John Shambaugh, WSDOT; Pete Stark, WTA; Kirk Vinish, Lummi Nation; Bryan Yon, Office of Rep. Luanne Van Werven

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

First Vice-Chairman McAuley, acting as chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Wilson requested that the Board add an action item to the draft agenda.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved, Ms. Linville seconded, to amend the agenda by adding an action item to New Business, "Reallocation of Unobligated Surface Transportation Program Funds."

**MOTION PASSED**

D. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2017.

**MOTION PASSED**

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program 2021 and 2022 Project Funding Awards

Mr. Conroy briefly explained the process the Transportation Technical Advisory Group used to rank the seven STBG project funding requests and the two TA requests that were submitted by the member jurisdictions. He then listed TTAG's funding recommendations to the Policy Board, listed in descending order by each project's ranking:

STBG Funding Recommendations:

1. Telegraph Road Multimodal, Bellingham: \$1,650,000 STBG Urban
2. East Smith Road and Hannegan Road Intersection, Whatcom County: \$1,000,000 (\$350,000 STBG Rural, \$650,000 STBG Any Area)
3. Kwina/Marine/Lummi Shore Roundabout, Lummi Nation: As a result of the two previous awards, only \$200,000 (from STBG Any Area funds) was available for this \$850,000 project. For that reason, TTAG recommended not awarding those funds to this project and, instead, adding them to the fifth-ranked Marine Drive project.
4. Bobblett Channelization, Blaine: \$545,000 STBG Urban
5. Marine Drive (McAlpine-Alderwood), Whatcom County: \$1,304,695 (\$1,104,695 STBG Urban, \$200,000 STBG Any Area, \$205,000 TA Urban)
6. Thornton Street, Ferndale: No STBG funding remained
7. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction, Lynden: No STBG funding remained

Transportation Alternatives Funding Recommendations:

1. State Route 544 Sidewalk, Everson: \$365,000 (\$85,000 TA Rural, \$280,000 TA Any Area)
2. Birch Bay Park Drive Crosswalk, Whatcom County: Instead of funding this project, TTAG recommended applying the \$205,000 requested to the County's related Marine Drive project to bring its total award to 91 percent of the total amount requested.

Ms. Phair asked that those funding requests that were not granted in this round be reconsidered during the next call for STBG and TA funding requests, and Ms. Linville suggested giving them priority over new requests at that time. Mr. Wilson explained that the jurisdictions could resubmit their requests in 2019, but the current ranking process adopted by the Policy Board does not give priority to unfunded requests from previous years.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bornemann moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve the allocation of Federal Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternatives program funds as recommended by the Transportation Technical Advisory Group, and listed above.

**MOTION PASSED**

F.2 Update on WSDOT's Corridor Sketch Initiative

Mr. Carlson briefed the Board on WSDOT's progress to date in implementing the Corridor Sketch Initiative and answered questions posed by the members.

F.3 Reallocation of Unobligated Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds

Staff briefed the Board on the status of regional STP-funded projects which have not yet been obligated. Mr. Wilson explained that WSDOT – to avoid losing unobligated STP funds to other states – will pull previously-awarded STP and STBG funding from a local government if it is failing to advance a project expeditiously, and offer it to other entities throughout the state to ensure that those funds stay in Washington. By August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, project lead agencies are supposed to prove to WSDOT that a specified portion of their STP/STBG funding will be obligated before the end of that federal fiscal year. Mr. Wilson explained that the Whatcom region's current target obligation amount is \$5.01-million, which includes about \$2-million of STP funds that were not obligated by August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 and were carried over to this year. He then stated that it was extremely unlikely that the full \$5.01-million would be obligated by the August 1<sup>st</sup> target date, which puts the region at risk of being sanctioned in the amount of the unobligated funds.

Mr. Coe then described the projects for which obligation was planned to occur by the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

G.1 Amendment to the 2017 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described proposed TIP Amendment No. 1707:

1. Add WCOG project *Improved Regional Transportation Data Collection and Analysis* to support metropolitan and regional transportation planning with traffic counts (including external station and turning movement counts), acquisition of third-party system data, a household travel survey and in-house data analysis. The project will use \$620,000 or less of unobligated Regional STP funds, if available.
2. Add WCOG project *Whatcom Smart Trips* to support the regional travel-demand management program in State Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020. The program will use \$200,000 or less of unobligated Regional STP funds, if available.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:26 P.M.**

No members of the public were present.

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 4:26 P.M.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1707 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION PASSED**

H. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the interest of time, Mr. Conroy chose not to provide a report.

I. PRESENTATION: WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Krueger and Ms. Murray provided updates on WSDOT's progress in preparing the Washington State Freight System Plan and the Washington Transportation Plan, respectively.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson referenced a letter included in the meeting packet from Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar responding to a request from the state's regional transportation planning organizations for increased funding.

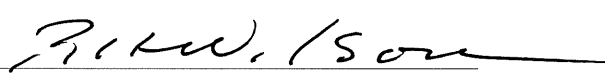
K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that Mr. Coe had recently earned the prestigious Certified Transportation Planner accreditation from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

  
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Michael McAuley  
First Vice-Chairman

  
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Robert H. Wilson, AICP  
Secretary

Minutes approved October 11, 2017