

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Jon Mutchler, Ferndale (Chairman); Tom Jones, Nooksack (1st Vice-Chairman); Jack Louws, Whatcom County (2nd Vice-Chairman); Pinky Vargas (for Kelli Linville) and Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Michael Shepard (for Bobby Briscoe), Port of Bellingham; Kyle Christensen, Sumas; Jay Drye, WSDOT; Cathy Watson, WTA; EX-OFFICIO: Terry Terry, CTAG; Chris Comeau, TTAG

GUESTS Kathy Berg, CTAG; Pete Stark, WTA; Kirk Vinish, Lummi Nation; Greg Young, Ferndale

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mutchler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

D. MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2018.

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. 1803, to which was added a sixth item not included on the table in the meeting packet.

1. Add new Bellingham project *F Street Crossing*. This rail crossing project – funded through the federal Highway Crossing Program (Section 130) – will improve gates, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and travel lane channelization. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$730,000.
2. Add new Port of Bellingham project *Harris Avenue Crossing*. This rail crossing project is also funded through the federal Highway Crossing Program and will improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and travel lane channelization. Construction will begin in 2019. Total cost: \$388,889.
3. Add new WCOG project *IMTC Passenger Vehicle Survey*. This project will survey approximately 10,000 drivers crossing the border at the five Cascade Gateway ports-of-entry in the summer of 2018 and winter 2018-19. The project is funded by FHWA (\$66,116) matched by \$66,116 provided jointly by the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Western Washington University's Border Policy Research Institute and WCOG. Total cost: \$132,232.
4. Amend WTA project *Replace (Approx. 6) Paratransit Mini-Buses*. This amendment adds \$250,000 to the project to increase the number of mini-buses to eight. New project cost: \$1,000,000.
5. Amend WSDOT project *I-5/Squalicum Creek to SR 539 – Bridge Deck Overlays* to add \$748,156 for the Construction phase. This project is funded through the federal National Highway Performance Program and construction will begin in 2019. New project cost: \$840,135.
6. Remove WSDOT project *Regionwide Shoulder Rumble-Strip Installation (17-19)*, funded through the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program. Project will remain funded for SR 20 in Skagit County. Total funds removed: \$106,116.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:37 P.M.

No members of the public were in attendance.

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

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:37 P.M.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 TIP Amendment No. 1803

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Korthuis seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1803 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G.2 Recognition of Kathy Berg

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, 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.

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Berg received a warm round of applause from all of those in attendance.

H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on the Region's progress in meeting its obligation target for regional projects funded through the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Conroy briefed the Board on current and upcoming planning activities. He also asked the member jurisdictions for their assistance in making the public aware of the upcoming Household Travel Survey, and there was consensus among the representatives to assist WCOG in this effort.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson directed the members' attention to a copy of a letter he had sent to the Joint Transportation Committee in support of Blaine's request for funding to update the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) for Exit 274.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. Drye explained some of the challenges he anticipates with the update of the Exit 274 IJR.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

