

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
MAY 9, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Jon Mutchler, Ferndale (Chairman); Tom Jones, Nooksack (1st Vice-Chairman); Jack Louws, Whatcom County (2nd Vice-Chairman); Kelli Linville and Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; John Perry, Everson; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Kyle Christensen, Sumas; Jay Drye, WSDOT; Cathy Watson, WTA; EX-OFFICIO: Luanne Van Werven, State Representative

GUESTS Jennifer Bell, Larry Brown, Tim Ellis, Rollin Harper, Jeff Margolis, Larry Smith, Penny Smith, Bryon Yon

STAFF Bob Wilson (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, 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

Three members of the public – Jeff Margolis, Larry Smith and Penny Smith, all from Van Zandt – addressed the Board on their concerns regarding truck traffic on State Route 9. The following comments were offered:

- A need for signage on SR 9 indicating the approach to Van Zandt
- The truck scale at Bow is inducing truckers to use SR 9
- The lack of adequate shoulders on SR 9 poses a threat to school buses
- Truckers are using SR 9 to skirt driving-time limits
- Increased truck volumes on SR 9 will negatively impact tourism in the east county
- The increase in truck traffic has resulted in a concomitant increase in noise due to the use of Jacobs (or “Jake”) brakes
- Ms. Smith stated that a “low-boy” semi-trailer drove off SR 9 into her yard, and that her fence has been hit and broken four times
- The speed limit should be reduced to 35 MPH due to the variety of land uses.

Chairman Mutchler thanked the members of the Van Zandt community who offered comments.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2018

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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. 1805, to which was added a fourth item not included on the table in the meeting packet.

1. Remove Bellingham project *Mahogany Avenue Arterial*. This project was obligated in October 2017 and is currently under construction. Removing this project will allow for the inclusion of Bellingham's *West Horton Road, Phase 1* construction project using federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. Total funds removed: \$5,674,793.
2. Add Bellingham *West Horton Road, Phase 1* construction. This project involves construction of a new arterial to connect Horton Road to Aldrich Road to the west using the regional apportionment of STBG funds. Construction will begin in 2019. Total funds added: \$4,333,000.
3. Add new Lummi Nation project *Lummi Shore Drive Sidewalk*. This project involves the construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities from Kwina Road to Scott Road. Funded through the Connecting Washington Account. Total cost: \$1,070,000.
4. Transfer up to \$450,000 of STBG funds allocated to Whatcom County's *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility* project to Everson's *Lincoln Street Phases 1 and 2* project to enable construction in 2018. Total amount of funds transferred: \$450,000.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:57 P.M.

No comments were offered.

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

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:57 P.M.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Everson-Lincoln Street Funding Shortage

Mr. Coe explained the proposed transfer of STBG funding from Whatcom County to Everson for its Lincoln Street project. This would be contingent upon Whatcom County receiving a \$450,000 STBG allocation "off the top" during the next call for STBG project funding requests.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the transfer of up to \$450,000 in STBG funds previously awarded to Whatcom County's *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility* project to Everson's *Lincoln Street Phases 1 and 2* project, and to award Whatcom County up to \$450,000 of STBG funding "off the top" for its *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility* project during the next call for STBG project funding requests.

MOTION PASSED

G.2 TIP Amendment No. 1805

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Louws seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1805 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

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 transportation planning activities.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was included in the meeting packet.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary