



# CTAG

citizens' transportation advisory group

It matters how we get there

## Meeting Summary May 1, 2017

### Attendees:

Mary Anderson	Whatcom Council of Governments [WCOG]
Terry Terry	Lummi Island
Bob Wilson	WCOG
Jaymes McClain	WCOG
Bruce Prior	Blaine Public Works Advisory Committee
Kathy Berg	Birch Bay
Bob Hendricks	Bellingham / WTA Gold Card holder
Carol Berry	Western Washington University [WWU] / Sehome Neighborhood

### Member Updates

Kathy Berg informed the group that the Whatcom County Library System[WCLS] is soon to close escrow on a Birch Bay property to be used as the site for a new library branch. She said that the development of a new park in Birch Bay is on hold until the new library location gets money raised for its development. Whatcom County has been digging test pits at the Birch Bay waterfront as part of the berm project. They are looking to see if there are any native artifacts in the areas that are slated for construction.

Bruce Prior reported that voters in Blaine approved a Transportation Benefit District [TBD], where the sales tax in the city will be raised by two-tenths of a percentage. This will generate \$200K a year for 10 years for transportation projects and programs.

Jaymes McClain told that group that the Transportation Border Working Group [TBWG] will be holding its upcoming plenary meeting in Bellingham on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The TBWG is a coalition of transportation agencies from the U.S. and Canada with the goal of improving transportation and inspection systems between the two countries. This is similar to the more local border group, the International Mobility and Trade Corridor program [IMTC], which is managed by WCOG staff. Mr. McClain also said that pedestrian plans are in the works for the Pacific Highway and Peace Arch-Douglas ports-of-entry. In Blaine, signage near a pedestrian path under the I-5 overpass that leads to the US Customs and Border Protection [US CBP] facilities will be removed, opening up pedestrian pathing northbound (previously only southbound).



Bob Wilson informed the group of items on the agenda for the May 10<sup>th</sup> Whatcom Transportation Policy Board meeting. The Washington State Traffic Commission will be giving a presentation on their road user charge pilot project, which would look at replacing the gas tax with a mileage-based road user charge. The board will also take action on an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program [TIP].

*Update: Adoption of WCOG's regional transportation plan update, Whatcom Mobility 2040, will be an action item at a special Policy Board meeting in June.*

Carol Berry reported that students at Western Washington University [WWU] recently approved the renewal of a fee to fund their universal bus pass for the next 5 years. Though voter turnout continues to decline at WWU, Ms. Berry said that 93 percent of voters approved the measure.

Bob Hendricks commented on the Whatcom Transportation Authority [WTA] route 331 that travels by WinCo on E Bellis Fair Parkway, saying the increase to 15-minute service intervals is a great addition.

Mary Anderson informed the group that WCOG was awarded a mobility grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation [WSDOT]. They will use the funds to continue conducting education outreach about transit with seniors and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. She also said that they are partnering with WTA and making a short video on how to use the bus. The video shoot is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and they are looking for extras to be in the video, Ms. Anderson said.

## Regional Transportation Plan Update – Whatcom Mobility 2040

WCOG staff set up poster boards around the meeting table detailing information about the regional transportation plan [RTP] update, Whatcom Mobility 2040. These posters were used for the open house outreach events that WCOG coordinated around the county – in Bellingham at the Farmer's Market, in Kendall, in Lynden, and in Blaine.

One poster lists the top seven regional transportation goals that WCOG has identified from compiling the goals of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan transportation element. Community members at each open house were asked to put a sticky dot next to the goal that they found to be most important. Regional goals are: Safety; A multimodal transportation system; Efficiency, effectiveness, & system sustainability; Environmental quality; Access and convenience; Maintenance & preservation; Freight transportation. Here are what community members picked:



<i>Regional Goals</i>	<i>Number of jurisdictions that identified the goal</i>	<i>Number of community members that identified the goal</i>
<i>Safety</i>	10	11
<i>A multimodal transportation system</i>	8	11
<i>Efficiency, effectiveness, &amp; system sustainability</i>	8	16
<i>Environmental quality</i>	8	8
<i>Access and convenience</i>	7	6
<i>Maintenance &amp; preservation</i>	6	3
<i>Freight transportation</i>	6	1

Mary Anderson explained that this year’s RTP update is completely online at [whatcommobility.org](http://whatcommobility.org). The goal was to make the plan much more interesting and useful than a PDF or paper document. Each page on the website is one of the sections of the plan. The plan is also being compiled into one document that will be printable.

Jaymes McClain showed group members the functionality of the interactive maps on the Whatcom Mobility 2040 website. Users can view forecasts for traffic, households, and employment out to 2040 and view demographic data related to environmental justice, such as low income, minority, and young and old populations around the Whatcom County region.

For more information about Whatcom Mobility 2040, visit [whatcommobility.org](http://whatcommobility.org), [wcog.org/planning/wm40/](http://wcog.org/planning/wm40/), or contact WCOG staff:

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