



Meeting Summary
February 4, 2020

Attendees:

Stoney Bird	Bellingham
Jewell Hamilton	Bellingham
Terry Terry	Lummi Island
Mark Robbins	Pt. Roberts
Myron Wlaznak	Silver Beach
Jillian Trinkaus	Western Washington University (WWU) / Bellingham
Ted Morris	Whatcom County Unincorporated

Technical Advisement:

Chris Comeau	Bellingham Public Works (City of)
Hugh Conroy	Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG)
Jaymes McClain	WCOG
Lethal Coe	WCOG
Maureen McCarthy	Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)
Geoff Beaumont	WTA
Tim Wilder	WTA

CTAG Officers and Membership for 2020

Ted Morris was appointed to the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) by the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board as an at-large member at their January 22 meeting.

CTAG currently has 11 voting members and 13 vacancies, 9 of which are local jurisdiction appointments. Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) staff will continue to reach out to jurisdictions, Policy Board members, and universities/schools to fill vacancies and create a more well-rounded CTAG membership that better represents the county region.

CTAG meetings are led by a Chairperson and, in the event of their absence, a Vice-Chairperson. These officers are elected at the beginning of each year.



Terry Terry was elected by majority vote as Chairperson for 2020. Jillian Trinkaus was elected by majority vote as Vice-Chairperson for 2020.

Update on WTA's SmartBus Project

[Link to presentation](#)

Geoff Beaumont presented on the current status of the Whatcom Transportation Authority's (WTA) SmartBus project.

The project began in 2017. SmartBus equipment was installed on buses in December 2019. Full implementation of the project will occur in Spring 2020.

Components of WTA's SmartBus project include:

- Automatic stop announcements
- Computer aided dispatch
- Real-time passenger information
- Electronic pre-trip bus inspections
- Traffic signal priority automation
- Live video for emergencies
- Improved data collection

Real-time information on the current location of buses and estimated times of arrival at stops will be accessible online and through a new WTA app.

Update on WTA Ridership and Discussion of WTA's Long Range Plan

[Link to presentation](#)

Tim Wilder presented some comparisons of WTA boarding rates over time with national rates, prominent WTA service changes and strategic plans, and revenue hours.

WTA is in the process of developing its first 20-year Long Range Transit Plan. Staff are finalizing a contract with a consultant to begin the planning process and develop a public engagement plan. The hope is to have a draft Long Range Plan by Summer 2021.

Mr. Wilder engaged CTAG members with a 3-question prompt where individuals wrote down their recommendations for what to do and what not to do in engaging the public to gather input for the plan.



Items for Next Meeting's Agenda (March 17)

At a previous CTAG meeting Stoney Bird had suggested a presentation from the Bellingham Climate Action Task Force. WCOG staff will reach out to this committee and to the Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee to request presentations on the transportation elements of their most recent committee reports.

Jaymes McClain suggested a review of the *It Matters How We Get There* action plan developed in 2002 by the Whatcom Transportation Policy Steering Committee. The plan describes a "Vision for 2020" and outlines the transportation issues of the time, potential solutions, and recommended action items. The plan, and the 2001 Countywide Transportation Summit, set in motion to creation of the WCOG CTAG.

Hugh Conroy suggested a discussion at a future meeting on the upcoming update to the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). Topic discussions would include grants, timelines, and the formation of a steering committee.