

**Whatcom Transportation Policy Board  
Minutes  
October 11, 2023**

In Attendance (In-person or via Zoom)

Members     *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Edwin “Skip” Williams; **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chair); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Port of Bellingham:** Bobby Briscoe; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT:** Chris Damitio; **Whatcom Transportation Authority:** Michael Lilliquist

Staff           Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci

Others         **Lummi Nation:** Kirk Vinish; **McBride Public Affairs:** Tom McBride;  
**Whatcom Transportation Authority,** Les Reardanz;

A.     **Call to Order**

Hugh Conroy determined that there was a quorum, and Chair Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

B.     **Public Comment**

None

C.     **Agenda Additions**

None

D.     **Approval of Minutes of**     July 12, 2023

**Motion:** Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Briscoe, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 12, 2023, as presented. **Motion Passed**

E.     **Old Business**

None

F.     **New Business**

1.     Current WSDOT Outlook for Preservation of state highways

Mr. Damitio gave a presentation of the current WSDOT budget, the decisions that went into it, and the current funding and programming for preservation projects state-wide and specifically in Whatcom County.

Board members asked clarifying questions about total funding amounts and interpretation of graphs.

Mr. Briscoe asked for more information on how the total state gas-tax revenue is allocated with respect to actual road improvements. Mr. Conroy offered to locate that information (noting that the Washington Transportation Commission has prepared good graphics on this).

Mr. Korthuis noted that long-programmed improvement to SR 539 (Guide Meridian) in Lynden, which dates back to the Nickel package, has now been pushed off further to 2035.

A question was asked about a chart that showed the estimated amount of additional gas tax that would be needed for the state to meet its objectives for improved safety -- \$5.10. The question was: For how long this would be needed to generate the target revenue? Mr. Damitio will look into how the estimate was done.

**G. Public Hearing 1**

Amendment #5 (23-10) of the WCOG 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Coe presented the requested TIP amendment.

The public hearing was opened at 4:02 p.m. No public present. Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. May, moved to close the public hearing. **Motion approved.** Public hearing closed at 4:03 p.m.

Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. May, moved to approve the TIP amendment as presented. **Motion approved.**

**H. Public Hearing 2**

WCOG 2024 TIP

Mr. Coe presented the final draft of the 2024 TIP.

The public hearing was opened at 4:06 p.m. No public present. The public hearing was closed at 4:07.

Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. May, moved to approve the 2024TIP as presented. **Motion approved.**

**I. Obligation Status Update**

Mr. Coe presented the current federal funds obligation status for programmed projects. WCOG is set to meet and exceed its current target.

**J. Director's Report**

Mr. Conroy reviewed the status of selected WCOG planning projects (Safe Streets & Roads for All action-plan development, upcoming IMTC meeting on October 25, etc.)

Mr. Conroy returned to the discussion at the last Policy Board meeting regarding a special session that would provide board members a review of RTPD and MPO duties. Board members indicated that one hour added to the beginning of the January Policy Board meeting would be a preferred option.

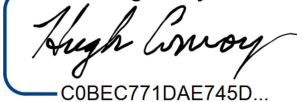
**K. Correspondence**

None

**L. Board Open Forum**

Mr. Briscoe reiterated his interest in information about the allocation of gas tax to transportation projects. Mr. Lilliquist agreed that it is important to have full awareness of where tax revenues are going and also shared his sense that Whatcom County had been doing pretty well with what it receives from fuel taxes.

DocuSigned by:



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Hugh Conroy  
Secretary

Approved January 17, 2023