

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Kristina Michele Martens; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT:** Chris Damitio; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kaylee Galloway; **WTA:** Michael Lilliquist (1st Vice Chairman) *EX-OFFICIO:* Sen. Simon Sefzik, 42nd District

GUESTS Todd Carlson, Jeremy Jewkes and Ed Winkley, WSDOT; Jon Hutchings, Whatcom County; Les Reardanz, WTA; Clayton Roberts, Nooksack Tribe; Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs; Terry Terry, CTAG

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Wilson determined that there was a quorum, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance, either in the conference room or online.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to approve the minutes of March 9, 2022, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. NEW BUSINESS

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Allocations

Mr. Coe directed the members' attention to his memo contained in the meeting packet regarding the proposed STBG allocations that had been unanimously

recommended by the Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) at its last meeting, which follow:

- \$1.2-million to Whatcom County's *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facilities* project
- \$1.2-million to the City of Ferndale's *Thornton Street, Vista Drive to Malloy Avenue* project
- Increase WCOG's allocation of STBG funding from five percent to eight percent annually to support program costs and data needs associated with carrying out the *Unified Planning Work Program*.

Mr. Coe then informed the Board that after the Policy Board meeting packet had been sent to the members, he had been informed by WSDOT that the region's final 2022 STBG allocation was \$160,000 higher than anticipated. Because of this, staff recommended increasing the allocations to the Birch Bay Drive and Thornton Street projects recommended by TTAG by \$50,000 – to \$1.25-million each – to minimize the possibility of missing the region's obligation authority target.

MOTION: Mr. May moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to award Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to the following projects and activity:

- \$1.25-million to Whatcom County's *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facilities* project
- \$1.25-million to Ferndale's *Thornton Street, Vista Drive to Malloy Avenue* project
- Increase WCOG's annual allocation from five percent to eight percent, the immediate result of which would be an additional \$104,400 toward meeting the region's Federal Fiscal Year 2022 obligation target.

MOTION PASSED

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment No. 22-04 to the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendments to the 2022 TIP:

- Add WCOG project *International Mobility and Trade Corridor Cross-Border Truck Study*, which will collect a variety of data on truck movements and commodity flows at three ports of entry in June and July 2022. This project is funded with Federal Highway Administration discretionary funds in the amount of \$50,000; the total project cost of \$97,000.
- Amend Washington State Department of Transportation project *State Route 539/Duffner Ditch Fish Passage* to remove the preliminary phase that obligated in 2021 and reduce the construction phase funding to \$2,698,196. This project is funded with Connecting Washington Account and federal National Highway Performance Program funds.

- Add Whatcom County project *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facilities*, which has resulted in the construction of a soft-shore roadway protection berm and drainage upgrades from Lora Lane to Cedar Avenue, as well as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant pedestrian path between Lora Lane and Cottonwood Drive. The construction phase is funded in part through a regional STBG allocation of \$1.25-million.
- Amend WCOG *Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* to reflect the increase awarded by the Policy Board to the annual set-aside to support programs and data needs of the UPWP to eight percent of the total regional STBG allocation. The State Fiscal Year 2023 WCOG UPWP is programmed at \$423,830.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:59 P.M.

No members of the public were present either in the conference room or online. A Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The Bellingham Herald* on March 27, 2022, as well as in the online edition of the *Cascadia Daily News*, which provided detailed instructions on how to submit comments or register to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 4:59 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve Amendment No. 22-04 to the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G. OLD BUSINESS

None

H. BRIEFING ON STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN

Mr. Winkley provided a brief update.

I. BOARD OPEN FORUM

At the request of Whatcom County Executive Sidhu, Chairman Korthuis asked Mr. Damitio if WSDOT would provide a briefing at the May 11th Policy Board meeting on the status of the Slater Road roundabout project, to which the latter responded in the affirmative. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was agreed by the parties that the briefing would be provided at the June 8, 2022 Policy Board meeting.)

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. H. Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved May 11, 2022