

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood; **Blaine:** Bonnie Onyon; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Tom Jones; **Port of Bellingham:** Ken Bell; **WSDOT:** Chris Damitio; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Carol Frazey; **WTA:** Michael Lilliquist *EX-OFFICIO:* Reps. Alex Ramel and Sharon Shewmake; Terry Terry, CTAG; Chris Comeau, TTAG

GUESTS Sonja Max, Whatcom County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Les Reardanz, WTA

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Wilson determined that there was a quorum, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

APPROVED AS PRESENTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2021

APPROVED AS PRESENTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Hearing No. 1: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) No. 21-10

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendments to the 2021 TIP:

- Add WSDOT planning project *Whatcom Council of Governments IMTC 2017-19, 2019-21 and 2021-2023* in the amount of \$110,000 from Washington's allocation of federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for the operation of the International Mobility and Trade Corridor Program in the 2021-23 biennium.

- Add new WSDOT project *State Route 548/Alderson Road Vicinity – Culvert Replacement* in the amount of \$429,703 to replace the failing culvert at this location. This project is funded from Washington’s allocation of federal STP funds, and construction will begin in 2023.
- Move the construction phase of City of Everson project *Blair Drive Improvements* from Federal Fiscal Year 2024 to FFY 2025. This ensures that the four-year program ending in FFY 2021 will meet the statutory requirement for fiscal constraint. The project will continue in the fiscally-constrained four-year program in WCOG’s 2022 TIP.
- Move the construction phase of City of Lynden project *West Main Street and Berthusen Roundabout* from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025. This ensures that the four-year program ending in FFY 2021 will meet the statutory requirement for fiscal constraint. The project will continue in the fiscally-constrained four-year program in WCOG’s 2022 TIP.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:12 P.M.

No members of the public were present either in the conference room or online. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that a Notice of Public Hearing had been published in *The Bellingham Herald* on September 26, 2021, which provided detailed instructions on how to submit comments or register to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:12 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved, Ms. Onyon seconded, to approve Amendment No. 21-10 to the 2021 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

Hearing No. 2: Adoption of the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Coe described the proposed 2022 TIP.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:16 P.M.

No members of the public were present either in the conference room or online. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that a Notice of Public Hearing had been published in *The Bellingham Herald* on September 26, 2021, which provided detailed instructions on how to submit comments or register to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:16 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Ms. Frazey moved, Mr. Bell seconded, to approve the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Obligation Authority Management Process

Mr. Coe explained the proposed process to ensure that WCOG's member jurisdictions and the region as a whole meet the State's annual obligation deadline, which will put the jurisdictions in position to receive additional obligation authority whenever Washington receives an allocation from the federal government.

MOTION: Mr. Hansen moved, Mr. Lilliquist seconded, to approve the WCOG Obligation Authority Management Process, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

2. 2021 North Sound Passenger-Only Ferry Study

Ms. Fanucci described the recently-completed study and answered questions posed by the members. There was consensus that staff should continue monitoring initiatives related to a potential Bellingham-Friday Harbor passenger-only ferry service.

3. Regional Transportation Goals

Mr. Conroy described the findings from a regionwide public-engagement survey WCOG conducted in the spring of 2021, and he asked for the Board's thoughts on how these responses should factor into the goal-setting process for the update to the regional transportation plan currently underway. There was consensus that the findings from the survey should inform the Board's deliberations regarding the adoption of regional goals.

H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on the region's current progress toward meeting its Federal Fiscal Year 2022 obligation target.

I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Conroy briefed the Board on recent transportation planning activities.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was included in the meeting packet or distributed at the meeting.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Bob Wilson

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved January 19, 2022