

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE (VIA GOTOMEETING):

MEMBERS VOTING: Bellingham: Seth Fleetwood (2nd Vice Chairman) and Pinky Vargas; Blaine: Bonnie Onyon; Ferndale: Greg Hansen; Lummi Nation: Kirk Vinish (for Lawrence Solomon); Lynden: Scott Korthuis (Chairman); Nooksack: Tom Jones; WSDOT: Jay Drye; Whatcom County: Satpal Sidhu; WTA: Michael Lilliquist; EX-OFFICIO: Chris Comeau, TTAG; Terry Terry, CTAG

GUESTS Ken Bell, Port of Bellingham; Todd Carlson, WSDOT; Carol Frazey, Whatcom County Council; Tom McBride, McBride Public Affairs

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Secretary Wilson then called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.

B. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, Mr. Hansen seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Sidhu seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 8, 2020.

MOTION PASSED

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Hearing No. 1: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) No. 20-10

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendments to the 2020 TIP:

1. Remove Whatcom County *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility* project. In June, the project obligated \$326,786 of the reallocated federal funds it had received. This project was allocated an additional \$500,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding in the event the State of Washington received redistributed federal funds, which it did not. Removal of this project from the TIP enables the region to maintain fiscal restraint.

2. Amend Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project *State Route 539/Duffner Ditch Fish Passage* to revise the preliminary engineering and right-of-way phases and add the construction phase. This project will remove the current fish passage barrier as part of the State's obligations under the federal injunction. It is funded through the National Highway Performance Program and the Connecting Washington Account.

Because of the current public health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor ordered all meetings of governmental bodies to be conducted online. For this reason, the public was informed in the Notice of Public Hearing published in *The Bellingham Herald* on September 13, 2020, that comments pertaining to TIP Amendment No. 20-10 must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Policy Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that no public comment had been received.

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, Mr. Hansen seconded, to approve Amendment No. 20-10 to the 2020 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

Hearing No. 2: 2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Coe described the draft 2021 TIP, which was included in the meeting packet, and answered questions posed by the members.

Because of the current public health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor ordered all meetings of governmental bodies to be conducted online. For this reason, the public was informed in the Notice of Public Hearing published in *The Bellingham Herald* on September 13, 2020, that comments pertaining to the proposed 2021 WCOG TIP must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Policy Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that no public comment had been received.

MOTION: Ms. Vargas moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve the 2021 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

Hearing No. 3: Amending Whatcom Mobility 2040

Mr. Conroy described the proposed amendments to Whatcom Mobility 2040, which were included in the meeting packet, and answered questions posed by the members.

Because of the current public health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor ordered all meetings of governmental bodies to be conducted online. For

this reason, the public was informed in the Notice of Public Hearing published in *The Bellingham Herald* on September 13, 2020, that comments pertaining to the proposed amendments to Whatcom Mobility 2040 must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Policy Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that no public comment had been received.

MOTION: Mr. Sidhu moved, Mr. Lilliquist seconded, amend the Regional Transportation Goals section of Whatcom Mobility 2040, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Drye provided an update on regional projects and WSDOT's financial position, and he answered questions posed by the members.

F. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on current progress toward meeting the region's project delivery obligation target.

G. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved December 9, 2020