

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
MAY 13, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE (VIA GOTOMEETING):

MEMBERS VOTING: Bellingham: Seth Fleetwood (2nd Vice Chairman) and Pinky Vargas; Blaine: Bonnie Onyon; Ferndale: Greg Hansen; Lynden: Scott Korthuis (Chairman); Nooksack: Tom Jones; WSDOT: Todd Carlson (for Jay Drye); Whatcom County: Satpal Sidhu and Kathy Kershner (1st Vice Chairwoman); WTA: Michael Lilliquist; EX-OFFICIO: None

GUESTS Hollie Huthman, Bellingham City Council; Michael Jones, Blaine; Kirk Vinish, Lummi Nation; Tom McBride, McBride Public Affairs; Carol Frazey, Jon Hutchings and Tyler Schroeder, Whatcom County; Pete Stark, WTA

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. with a quorum present, and he asked Mr. Wilson to perform a roll call.

B. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Ms. Vargas moved, Mr. Lilliquist seconded, to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, Mr. Sidhu seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2020.

MOTION PASSED

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Reallocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds

Mr. Coe explained that Everson – which had been awarded \$100,000 of STBG funds at the March 11, 2020 Policy Board meeting – had recently informed him that the City would be unable to obligate \$47,786 of those funds before the statewide obligation deadline of August 1, 2020. However, Whatcom County expressed to him that it could obligate that amount on its Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility project before the deadline.

MOTION: Mr. Sidhu moved, Ms. Vargas seconded, to reallocate \$47,786 from Everson's Lincoln Street Improvements project, Phases I and II, to Whatcom County's Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility project.

MOTION PASSED

2. WCOG-WSDOT-WTA Section 314 Agreement

Mr. Conroy explained the requirement to update the "314 Agreement," which defines each party's responsibilities for metropolitan transportation planning. The current agreement must be renewed before it expires on May 28, 2020.

MOTION: Ms. Onyon moved, Ms. Kershner seconded, to authorize the Executive Director to sign the 2020 update to the "Agreement Relating to Mutual Responsibilities in Carrying Out the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process in the Whatcom Council of Governments Metropolitan Planning Area," as presented, allowing for any subsequent technical corrections by WCOG or other signatory agencies.

MOTION PASSED

3. State Fiscal Year 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Conroy presented the proposed 2021 UPWP to the Policy Board.

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, Mr. Hansen seconded, to approve the State Fiscal Year 2021 Unified Planning Work Program for the Whatcom Metropolitan Planning Area, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Amending the 2020 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

1. Add Whatcom Council of Governments' annually allocated *Unified Planning Work Program activities* (State Fiscal Year 2021) with \$216,371 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds.
2. Amend City of Everson project *Lincoln Street Improvements, Phase I* to reduce the recently awarded STBG funding from \$100,000 to 41,371 to complete the construction phase.
3. Add recently awarded STBG funding of \$10,843 to City of Everson project *Lincoln Street Improvements, Phase II* to complete the construction phase.

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 May 10, 2020, that comments pertaining to TIP Amendment No. 20-05 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, Ms. Vargas seconded, to approve Amendment No. 20-05 to the 2020 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendments to Whatcom Mobility 2040

Mr. Conroy described the proposed amendment to Whatcom Mobility 2040, which comprises 17 projects submitted by the Policy Board's member jurisdictions for inclusion in the plan's project list.

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 May 10, 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: Ms. Kershner moved, Mr. Sidhu seconded, to amend Whatcom Mobility 2040 to add the 17 projects submitted by the member jurisdictions to the plan's project list, as presented.

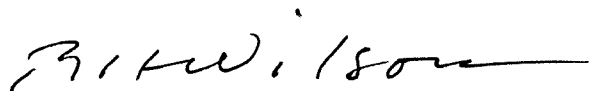
MOTION PASSED

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 4:28 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary