

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 14, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS **VOTING: Bellingham:** Pinky Vargas (1st Vice Chairwoman); **Blaine:** Bonnie Onyon; **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Tom Jones; **WSDOT:** Jay Drye; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Carol Frazey *EX-OFFICIO*: Rep. Sharon Shewmake; **CTAG:** Terry Terry; **PUD:** Atul Deshmane

GUESTS Todd Carlson, WSDOT; Les Reardanz, WTA; Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Wilson determined that a quorum was present, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were in attendance.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved, Ms. Frazey seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2021

MOTION: Ms. Vargas moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2021, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) No. 21-07

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

Add new Whatcom Transportation Authority project *Purchase Electric Buses and Infrastructure* to acquire two electric buses and related infrastructure. This project is funded through the Washington State Public Transportation – Green Transportation Capital Grant program.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:33 P.M.

No members of the public were present, and Mr. Wilson informed the Board that no written comments had been received prior to the public hearing. The Notice of Public Hearing published in *The Bellingham Herald* on June 27, 2021, informed the public that comments pertaining to TIP Amendment No. 21-07 had to be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Policy Board prior to the meeting, and provided the Secretary's e-mail and postal addresses.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:34 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Ms. Vargas moved, Ms. Frazey seconded, to approve Amendment No. 21-07 to the 2021 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Transportation Safety Targets

Mr. Conroy explained the Policy Board's statutory requirement to adopt public transportation safety targets. He then briefly described the safety targets and answered questions posed by the members.

MOTION: Ms. Frazey moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to adopt Whatcom Transportation Policy Board Resolution No. 21-07-01, "Establishing Regional Public Transportation Safety Performance Targets," as presented.

MOTION PASSED

2. Federal Fiscal Years 2025-26 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Awards

Mr. Coe described the seven projects recommended by the Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) to receive STBG or TA funding, and answered questions posed by the members.

MOTION: Ms. Vargas moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve the allocation of Federal Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 regional Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternatives funds as recommended by TTAG.

MOTION PASSED

3. Draft WCOG Public Participation Plan

Mr. Wilson briefly described the draft Public Participation Plan and explained that it would be brought before the Council Board in October for adoption, following a 45-day public comment period. He then answered questions and accepted recommendations from members on groups from which comments should be sought.

H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on the region's current progress toward meeting its Federal Fiscal Year 2021 obligation target.

I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

J. CORRESPONDENCE

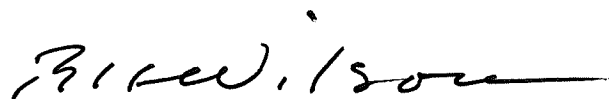
A letter from Mr. Wilson to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg supporting the Port's request for funding for its Rail Span Barge Dock Rehabilitation project was included in the meeting packet, along with an e-mail he sent to WSDOT staff with recommendations for the upcoming Slater Road improvement project.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. Sidhu informed the Board that the Whatcom County Council is preparing to conduct its meetings using a "hybrid" format (in-person and virtual attendance) on a permanent basis.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved October 13, 2021