

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 8, 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: Todd Carlson (for Jay Drye); WTA: Michael Lilliquist; EX-OFFICIO: Chris Comeau, TTAG; Rep. Sharon Shewmake, 42nd Legislative District

GUESTS Tom McBride, McBride Public Affairs; Guy Occhiogrosso, Bellingham Regional Chamber; John Shambaugh, WSDOT; Pete Stark, WTA; Joe Timmons, Office of the Governor

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. AGENDA APPROVAL

APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2020.

MOTION PASSED

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Redistributed Obligation Authority Funding

Mr. Coe explained that when a state fails to obligate its entire annual allocation of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, those funds are made available to other states that have met their obligation targets. Although it remains uncertain if redistributed STBG funding will be available, in the event it is, the Policy Board must submit to WSDOT a list of STBG-eligible projects with the amount requested to be eligible. The only project in the region that could accept and obligate additional STBG funding by the end of the current Federal Fiscal Year is Whatcom County's Birch Bay Drive project. Staff recommends that the Policy Board allocate \$500,000 in redistributed STBG funding to that project.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Lilliquist seconded, to approve the allocation of \$500,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to Whatcom County's Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility project, and to officially request from WSDOT funding in that amount, or a lesser amount if the full \$500,000 is not available, in redistributed STBG funding.

MOTION PASSED

2. Amending the Goals of Whatcom Mobility 2040

Mr. Conroy described certain adjustments to the regional goals contained in *Whatcom Mobility 2040* – the adopted long-range transportation plan – for possible Policy Board action at its scheduled meeting in October. The Board indicated its enthusiasm for reviewing the goals and possibly amending the plan at the October meeting.

3. I-5 Operations and Transportation Demand Management Analysis

Mr. Carlson made a presentation on the analysis and answered questions posed by the members.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Amending the 2020 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

1. Add Whatcom Transportation Authority's *Integrated Mobility Innovation Project* that was recently awarded Federal Transit Administration 5312 Public Transportation Innovation funding to provide "Van on Demand" service to improve access to public transportation for seniors, school-aged children, people with disabilities, and lower-income households. The project includes the purchase of three (3) wheel-chair-accessible vans; hiring van drivers for at least one year; developing and implementing marketing strategies; and data collection and research. The total cost of the project is \$899,235.
2. Amend Whatcom County *Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility* project to add \$500,000 of redistributed Surface Transportation Block Grant funding.

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 June 21, 2020, that comments pertaining to TIP Amendment No. 20-07 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. Jones seconded, to approve Amendment No. 20-07 to the 2020 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

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 4:29 p.m.



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approved October 14, 2020