

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES – **DRAFT**
JULY 10, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Scott Korthuis (1st Vice-Chairman), Lynden; Jack Louws (2nd Vice-Chairman) and Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County; Terry Bornemann, Bellingham; Bonnie Onyon, Blaine; John Perry, Everson; Tom Jones, Nooksack; Jay Drye, WSDOT; Michael Lilliquist, WTA; NON-VOTING: Chris Comeau, CTAG; Jeff McClure, PUD No. 1; Rep. Luanne Van Werven, 42nd District

GUESTS Larry Brown, Sudden Valley Association; Ted Carlson, City of Bellingham; Todd Carlson and Gabe Ng, WSDOT; Peter Frye, Lummi Nation; Lynne Lohr, Bellingham resident; Ellen Murphy, Bellingham resident; Guy Occhiogrosso, Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce; Pete Stark, WTA

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lohr and Ms. Murphy each expressed their concerns about the impact of radiation generated by cell phone use on buses, citing certain other publicly-expressed opinions on the subject. Ms. Lohr also cited Geiger counter readings she had taken while riding on WTA fixed-route and paratransit buses.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2019.

MOTION PASSED

E. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Amending the 2019 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe distributed to the representatives a revised memo to replace that which was included in the meeting packet, and then described the proposed amendment to the 2019 TIP:

1. Remove Bellingham project *Cordata Safe Routes to School Program* that obligated in November, 2018.
2. Remove WSDOT project *State Route 9/Acme Vicinity to Mt. Baker Highway Vicinity – Weigh-in-Motion Enforcement Area*. This project has been delayed until the 2025-27 biennium.
3. Amend the Whatcom County *Lummi Island Breakwater Replacement Project* to add in the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase and remove the Construction phase. The PE phase will utilize federal Ferry Boat Program (FBP) funds in the total amount of \$100,000. The Construction phase will be added back into the TIP at a future date.
4. Add new Whatcom County *Lummi Island Terminal Preservation Project* to paint and strengthen the transfer span and towers at the Lummi Island Ferry Terminal. This project is funded through the FBP for a total cost of \$820,000 and will begin in 2019.
5. Revise the TIP to add “Transportation Performance Management” language pertaining to the *Pavement and Bridge* and *System Performance and Freight* sections of the document to comply with the federally-required “Performance-Based Planning and Programming” rules.

Mr. Coe then answered questions posed by the representatives.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:44 P.M.

No comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 3:44 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve Amendment No. 1907 to the 2019 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Awards

Mr. Coe went through the memo included in the meeting packet and then answered questions posed by the representatives.

MOTION: Mr. Louws moved, Mr. Bornemann seconded, to approve the allocation of Federal Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 regional STBG and Transportation Alternatives program funds as recommended by the Transportation Technical Advisory Group.

MOTION PASSED (Mr. Lilliquist abstained)

2. WSDOT Projects Update

Mr. Ng briefed the Policy Board on the status of several WSDOT projects.

H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe stated that there was no change in the region's obligation status since the last Policy Board meeting.

I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Conroy briefed the Board on current and upcoming transportation planning activities.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson directed the representatives' attention to a letter that was included in the meeting packet.

K. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Ms. Onyon mentioned the recommendation of All Aboard Washington – a passenger-rail advocacy group – for an Amtrak stop in Blaine.

L. ADJOURNMENT

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

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Prepared by Robert H. Wilson, Secretary. These draft minutes have been neither reviewed nor approved by the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board.