

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MINUTES – **DRAFT**
JULY 13, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Kristina Michele Martens; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chairman); **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chairman); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **WSDOT:** Chris Damitio; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kaylee Galloway; **WTA:** Michael Lilliquist *EX-OFFICIO:* Christine Grant, Public Utility District No. 1

GUESTS Todd Carlson, WSDOT; Sean Connell, Rep. Rick Larsen’s office; Peter Frye, Lummi Nation; Chris Heimgartner, PUD No. 1; Jim Karcher, Whatcom County; Les Reardanz, WTA; Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs; Terry Terry, Lummi Island resident; Caryn Van Griend, PSE

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Wilson determined that there was a quorum, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

C. AGENDA ADDITIONS

None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Hansen moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2022, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARING

Way to Go, Whatcom

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that the hearing had been scheduled in case any members of the public wanted to comment during the extended public comment period. No comments were received via email prior to the meeting, and no members of the public were present in the conference room.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 3:34 P.M.

Chairman Korthuis asked if any members of the public were participating via the Zoom link and wanted to offer comments, to which there was no response.

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

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Amendments to the 2045 Whatcom Region Long-Range Transportation Plan, *Way to Go, Whatcom*

No amendments were offered.

2. Request by City of Lynden to Reprogram Previously Awarded STBG Funding

Mr. Coe explained that the City of Lynden had evaluated several options to move forward with three projects currently programmed in both the regional and state transportation improvement programs, which are funded from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. Due to escalating project costs and insufficient federal funding to address significant right-of-way and environmental issues, the City proposed the following actions to reprogram the combined STBG funding from those three projects:

- a. Award \$257,770 of STBG funding to the *Benson Road Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Road* project. To facilitate this, Lynden would de-federalize its *Main Street Corridor Completion* project by de-obligating \$257,770 of STBG funds awarded to it in 2012 and reimbursing \$156,000 to WSDOT.
- b. Transfer the remaining \$8,437 from the STBG funds awarded in 2012 to the *Main Street Corridor* project to the *Benson Road Improvements* project. This would not require any de-obligation.
- c. Transfer \$800,000 of STBG funding awarded to the *West Main Street and Berthusen Roundabout* project to the *Benson Road Improvements* project, which would also not require any de-obligation.

These actions would result in a total of \$1,066,207 of STBG funds being transferred to the Benson Road project.

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, seconded by Mr. Sidhu, to approve the reallocation of \$1,066,207 of STBG funding, as requested by the City of Lynden, to its *Benson Road Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Road* project, as described above.

MOTION PASSED

3. Other New Business

None

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendment No. 22-07 to the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Coe described the proposed amendments to the 2022 TIP:

- Amend WSDOT's *I-5/Slater Road Interchange – Improvements* project to revise the preliminary engineering and construction phases; remove the right-of-way phase; adjust the total project cost and; update the expenditure schedule. This project is funded through the Connecting Washington Account.
- Remove Lynden's *West Main Street and Berthusen Roundabout* project. The funding will be reallocated to Lynden's *Benson Road Improvements, Sunrise to Badger Road* project.
- Remove Lynden's *Main Street Corridor Completion* project. The funding will be reallocated to the *Benson Road Improvements* project.
- Amend Lynden's *Benson Road Improvements* project to add \$442,015 of regional STBG funds to the preliminary engineering phase that is planned to begin in 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:00 P.M.

No members of the public were present, either in the conference room or online. A Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The Bellingham Herald* on July 3, 2022, as well as in the online edition of the *Cascadia Daily News*, which provided detailed instructions on how to submit comments or register to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 4:00 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, seconded by Mr. May, to approve Amendment No. 22-07 to the 2022 WCOG Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

G. OLD BUSINESS

None

H. OBLIGATION STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Coe briefed the Board on the region's current progress toward meeting its Federal Fiscal Year 2022 obligation target.

I. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

Mr. May stated that he had been informed by certain members of the Kendall community that they would like a designated turning lane on State Route 547 at the entrance to the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center.

Ms. Galloway and Ms. Grant described the proposed Whatcom County "Dig Once" policy.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Secretary

Approval scheduled for October 12, 2022