

SKAGIT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 6th, 2014
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes Fred Buckenmyer, Eric Shjarback
- Burlington Brian Dempsey
- Concrete Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon Esco Bell, Mike Love
- Samish Indian Nation Corlyn St. James
- Sedro-Woolley Mark Freiberger
- Skagit County Paul Randall-Grutter
- Skagit Transit Dennis Digges, Marcia Smith
- Swinomish Tribal Community Ed Knight, Tara Satushek
- WSDOT Tom Stacey

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:30 PM. Roll was taken with a quorum present.

1. Public Comment: There were no public comments.
2. SCOG Report: Kevin Murphy suggested that this agenda item be skipped because most of the information he would share is included in the agenda items to follow.
3. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: There were no formal amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). However, projects that are under consideration to receive Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Alternatives Program funds will be incorporated into the TIP once they are selected.
4. Transportation Alternatives Program Project Review: Gabe Philips reported on the MPO/RTPO Policy Board action that took place regarding the TAC’s recommendation for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects. The MPO/RTPO Policy Board’s action altered the TAC recommendation and substituted the 4th ranked project (Sedro-Woolley Cook Road project) with the 10th ranked project (Sedro Woolley Cascade Trail West Extension). The action, which was to recommend a final ranking of projects to the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) Policy Board, was supported by all of the Board members present except for the Mayor of Mount Vernon. Gabe also reported that the Island Sub-RTPO Policy Board approved the recommendation as it came from the TAC, without the substitutions. The final decision will be made by the SIRTPO Policy Board on March 20, 2014.
5. Technical Advisory Committee Procedures: Gabe Philips shared with the TAC the Board’s desire to have increased clarity on the TAC’s recommendation. Gabe suggested that the TAC make formal motions and vote on them to clearly establish their intent. TAC meeting minutes will also be prepared going forward. Discussion occurred about having an official TAC chair to represent the TAC at the Policy Board meetings. Some of the TAC members didn’t feel comfortable representing other agencies as a TAC chair. They did emphasize that when major decisions, such as project funding, go to the MPO/RTPO Policy Board, TAC members should be present at the meetings.

A motion was made by Fred Buckenmeyer to have official TAC minutes, formal motions and voting, and have staff present the recommendations of the TAC to the Policy Board, not a TAC chair. The motion was seconded by Esco Bell. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Surface Transportation Program Project Scoring: At the previous MPO/RTPO Policy Board meeting the Board instructed the TAC to review the existing Surface Transportation Program (STP) scoring criteria. Gabe Philips presented potential scoring criteria that could be used going forward. While the TAC generally desired to use updated scoring criteria to select projects, issuing a new call for projects could jeopardize the region's ability to meet obligation targets for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014.

Mike Love made a motion to use the existing (STP) scoring criteria and project scoring from the current call for projects to select enough projects to meet the FFY 2014 obligation target. The projects selected must be able to obligate the awarded funds by July 31, 2014. The motion was seconded by Fred Buckenmeyer. The motion carried unanimously.

Gabe then presented the ranking of STP projects. The top ranked project was the Swinomish Tribe's SR 20 Safe Access project. The cost for this project was \$2.75 million. The TAC was unwilling to commit multiple years' worth of funding to one project so it was proposed that this project be skipped over. The TAC then worked down the list to determine which projects, and the applicable dollar amounts, would be able to obligate funds by July 31st.

Fred Buckenmeyer made a motion to fund the following projects:

- Burlington – Fairhaven Intersection.....\$86,500, Design
- Skagit Transit – Passenger Information Systems \$56,000, Design, Construction
- Concrete – Secondary Access\$80,000, Design
- Anacortes – Guemes Channel Trail \$527,650, Design, Construction
- Skagit County – Josh Wilson Road\$285,000, Design

The motion was seconded by Cody Hart. The motion carried with the Swinomish Tribe abstaining.

Staff agreed to send the TAC initial project selection criteria for phase two of the project call. The TAC would review and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the criteria.

7. Non-Motorized Plan Project Ranking: Due to time constraints, Gabe Philips said he would email necessary information to the TAC members
8. Roundtable Projects Discussion: This item was skipped due to time constraints.

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on April 3, 2014. The meeting will be held in SCOG conference room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Attest:



Gabe Philips,
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 4/3/14