

SKAGIT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 4th, 2014
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes Eric Shjarback
- Burlington Brian Dempsey
- Concrete Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon Esco Bell, Mike Love
- Sedro-Woolley Mark Freiberger
- Skagit County Forrest Jones
- WSDOT Ed Conyers, Jade Mott, John Shambaugh

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Gabe Philips Transportation Planner

MINUTES

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

1. SCOG Report: Kevin Murphy reported that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) met its statewide target for obligation authority. SCOG met its regional obligation authority target as well. As of the last Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/WSDOT coordinating meeting, a couple of other regions had not met their targets. Another issue raised at the coordinating meeting is the fact that Yakima Valley Council of Governments had obligated four years' worth of regional funding. A discussion ensued about potentially limiting the amount of funding that can be obligated by region. Kevin said he will keep the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) informed of any developments.
2. Approval of the August 7th, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Mike Love made a motion to approve the August 7th, 2014 TAC meeting minutes as they were presented. Eric Shjarback seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: WSDOT submitted the following four projects to be considered for inclusion into the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):
 - I-5 Northbound Hill Ditch Bridge to Joe Leary Slough Paving – This project includes \$355,127 of National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds for preliminary engineering in 2015. This is a new project to the 2014-2017 TIP and is consistent with the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Plan.
 - SR 530/Sauk Prairie Vicinity to SR 20-BST – This project includes \$139,146 of State Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for preliminary engineering in 2015. This is a new project to the 2014-2017 TIP and is consistent with the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Plan.
 - SR 536/SR 20 Road Vicinity to Mount Vernon-Rumblestrip Installation - This project includes \$51,332 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for preliminary engineering in 2015. This is a new project to the 2014-2017 TIP and is consistent with the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Plan.

- SR 9/256th NE Vicinity to Lake Cavanaugh Road Vicinity-BST – This project includes \$104,012 of State STP funds for preliminary engineering in 2015. This is a new project to the 2014-2017 TIP and is consistent with the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Plan.

Brian Dempsey made a motion to recommend to the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) that the proposed projects be amended into the 2014-2017 TIP. Esco Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. 2015-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Gabe Philips presented the Draft 2015-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to the TAC and highlighted the major changes from the 2014-2017 TIP. Staff has prepared RTIP policies that will apply to SIRTPO rather than just SCOG, as they had in the past. A few slight changes are proposed in the updated policies. One of the changes states that any project that is included in the RTIP must first be included in the sponsor agency's local TIP. Another new policy is that if a project is programmed to obligate regionally managed funds (STP or Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)) in the upcoming fiscal year and is unable to do so, the project will be reprogrammed to the following fiscal year. If the project is still unable to obligate its funds by the end of the new fiscal year, the funds can be removed from the project by the SCOG TPB or Island Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) Policy Board (in the case of STP funds) or the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) Policy Board (for TAP funds).

Gabe also explained that staff intends to formalize selection processes for distributing regionally managed funds (STP and TAP). Because TAP funds are distributed to SIRTPO, the SIRTPO Policy Board will approve the proposed TAP selection process. However, STP funds are distributed directly to SCOG. Therefore, the STP selection process will be formalized by the SCOG TPB. Gabe explained that the proposed selection process essentially follows the process that was used in the last call for projects. Esco Bell made a motion to recommend that the TPB approve the STP project selection process as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Dempsey. The motion carried unanimously.

Gabe informed the TAC that the proposed project list for the fiscally constrained portion of the 2015-2020 RTIP is nearly finalized. He is still waiting on project submissions from WSDOT Ferries. Mark Freiberger made a motion to recommend that the TPB approve the 2015-2018 project list, with the understanding that additional projects will likely be included. Cody Hart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Surface Transportation Program Project Selection Criteria Review: Gabe highlighted some of the selection criteria he felt could be improved for the next STP call for projects. He asked the TAC to identify portions of the criteria they would like to see improved. Mark Freiberger suggested that the TAC be able to think about the potential improvements and report back at a future meeting. Gabe said he would send the master scoring spreadsheet to the TAC so they can see how the criteria ranked the projects.
6. Roundtable Projects Discussion: Eric Shjarback reported that Anacortes' Guemes Channel Trail project is out to bid. Forrest Jones reported that Skagit County's Pioneer Highway Roundabout project is complete. He also highlighted some of the paving the county is doing. Liz McNett Crowl reported that the Active Community Taskforce (ACT) will be performing bicycle and pedestrian counts September 30 through October 2. She also reported that ACT is preparing a bicycle route signage plan. Mark Freiberger said that Sedro-Woolley had a ribbon cutting for their Cook Road Realignment project yesterday. He also said that there is talk of the legislature potentially sweeping the Transportation Improvement Board. Cody Hart said that Concrete had a ribbon cutting for its Fire and Life Safety Building. Brian Dempsey reported that Burlington is moving forward on the Intersection Modification project. Burlington is also going out to bid on its Gages Slough project. He requested any advice TAC members have on going out to bid so late in the year. Mike Love said that Mount Vernon's floodwall project will be completed in October. He also highlighted several chip-seal paving projects that had recently been done in the city. Ed Conyers said that WSDOT is performing site visits for the Safe Routes to School and Bicycle Pedestrian grant program and that a prioritized list will be available in December 2014. He also encouraged local agencies to prepare agreements in a way that will allow them to send regular billings to WSDOT.



The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on October 2nd, 2014. The meeting will be held in SCOG conference room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gabe Philips", is written over a horizontal line.

Gabe Philips,
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 10/2/2014