SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

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

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes ..... Eric Shjarback
- Concrete ..... Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon ..... Mike Love (arrived at 1:35 PM)
- Sedro-Woolley ..... Mark Freiberger
- Skagit County ..... Forrest Jones

ACTIVE COMMUNITY TASKFORCE REPRESENTATIVE

- Liz McNett Crowl

STAFF PRESENT

- Mark Hamilton ..... Transportation Planner
- Gabe Philips ..... Transportation Planner

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

1. SCOG Report: Gabe Philips reported that the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) Policy Board met yesterday and approved the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) and the Human Services Project List. The SIRTPO Policy Board also discussed the possibility of creating a joint Skagit-Island Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide recommendations on the update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project selection process.

2. Approval of the November 6th, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. A quorum was not present when this item was discussed so it was postponed until the next meeting. Cody requested that his comments from the previous meeting about the Town of Concrete being able to save $30,000 in federal funds if their TAP and Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects can obligate at the same time, be included in the November 6th, 2014 minutes.

3. Regional Non-Motorized Plan: Gabe Philips gave a summary of the Non-Motorized Plan draft project list. Through several iterations of review by the member agencies, the list currently includes 53 projects. Gabe explained that the prioritization methodology, which was distributed to the TAC after the last meeting, was used to prioritize the projects into three equally sized tiers. Gabe also reviewed the recommendations for priority adjustments made by the Active Community Taskforce (ACT).

   Gabe suggested that a new criterion identifying projects that cross regional barriers be applied to the prioritization methodology. The TAC identified the Skagit River, Interstate 5, and the railroads as the regional barriers. It was determined that 15 points should be applied to this criterion.

Eric Shjarback said he didn't think projects that serve the same corridor should be in the same prioritization tier. Gabe said that the methodology does not account for nearby planned projects so it is likely that projects with similar attributes and locations will be prioritized similarly. It is reasonable for the TAC to make recommendations that the prioritization of projects be altered based on professional judgment.

Cody Hart said that equestrian use should be considered on any project that is developed east of Sedro-Woolley. Mark Freiberger said that a project that travels north to Whatcom County should be included in the plan.

4. Roundtable Projects Discussion: Mike Love said that the second phase of the City of Mount Vernon's floodwall project is complete. They had the temporary wall partially assembled as the Skagit River's waters rose over the weekend. Two members of the public work staff were able to do the work that used to take hundreds of volunteers to accomplish prior to the construction of the floodwall.

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on January 8th, 2015. The meeting will be held in SCOG conference room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Attest:

Date 1/9/15

Gabe Philips,
Skagit Council of Governments