

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 8th, 2015
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes Eric Shjarback
- Burlington Brian Dempsey
- Concrete Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon Mike Love
- Sedro-Woolley Mark Freiberger
- Skagit County Dan Berentsen, Paul Randall-Grutter
- Skagit Transit Carolyn Chase
- WSDOT John Shambaugh

ACTIVE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE

- Liz McNett Crowl

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton Transportation Planner
- Gabe Philips Transportation Planner

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

1. SCOG Report: Gabe Philips reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting scheduled for May 7th, 2015 conflicts with a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) training session regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plans. The TAC meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, May 6th, 2015. Gabe also said that the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) Policy Board has requested that the Skagit and Island TACs meet together as a joint TAC to provide input on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project selection. Gabe will schedule a meeting for early February in Anacortes.
2. Approval of the November 6th, 2014 and December 4th, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Mark Freiberger asked if Cody Hart's request to update the November 6th, 2014 meeting minutes had been addressed. Gabe said that Cody's remarks are now included in the November 6th TAC meeting minutes. Mark Freiberger moved to approve the November 6th, 2014 and December 4th, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Eric Shjarback seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mike Love wanted to clarify that his comments at the December 4th, 2014 TAC meeting meant that preserving the Transportation Improvement Board's funding should be a priority of the region, but not in place of other regional projects.
3. Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Gabe presented the following Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendment requests submitted for consideration:
 - Anacortes

- Guemes Channel Trail, Phase VII
 - Safe Routes to School, 2013
- Mount Vernon
 - College Way (SR 538) LaVenture Road Intersection Safety Improvements
 - Mount Vernon Signal Safety Improvements
- Sedro-Woolley
 - Jameson Arterial Extension
- WSDOT-Marine
 - SR 20 Spur/Anacortes Terminal Tie-up Slips: Dolphin and Wingwall
- WSDOT-NW
 - SR 9/Lake Creek: Fish Barrier
 - SR 20/Cook Road Railroad Crossing Improvements
 - SR 20/W State Street Railroad Crossing Improvements
 - SR 536/Kincaid Street Railroad Crossing Improvements
 - SR 536/Montgomery Street Railroad Crossing Improvements

Mike Love asked John Shambaugh if there are more detailed descriptions of work available for the railroad crossing improvement projects. John said he would provide project descriptions to the TAC. Mike said that the City of Mount Vernon does not support rail projects that increase the speed of rail traffic through the city. Mike moved to recommend for approval all of the proposed amendments except the two rail crossing projects in Mount Vernon. Mark Freiberger made a friendly amendment to also remove the two rail crossing projects in Sedro-Woolley from the recommendation. The friendly amendment was accepted by Mike. Mark seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Transportation Alternatives Project Selection Criteria: Gabe summarized the TAP project selection process that occurred in early 2014. The SIRTPO Policy Board has given direction to develop objective criteria to select projects to receive TAP funding. Gabe explained that the Policy Board may determine to limit which types of projects are eligible for regional TAP funds. Staff is preparing online surveys to distribute to the Policy Board, Skagit and Island TACs, and the public to inform the SIRTPO Policy Board's decision about criteria weighting and limiting which projects are eligible for regional TAP funds.

Staff will schedule a joint Skagit-Island TAC meeting to make a recommendation regarding the decision to limit project eligibility. Cody said he thinks that there should not be further limitations on project eligibility. Eric Shjarback said that limiting eligibility might be a good idea, to simplify criteria development and project selection.

5. Regional Non-Motorized Plan: At the December 4th, 2014 TAC meeting, the TAC recommended that staff should incorporate regional barriers in the prioritization criteria. With the new criterion, several projects have moved to new priority tiers. Mike Love said that projects located within WSDOT right of way should list WSDOT as the lead agency. Gabe said he would review the project list and make any necessary changes. He also requested that TAC members inform him of any changes that need to be made.

Gabe reviewed the recommendations the Active Community Taskforce made regarding adjusting the priority tiers for various projects and asked the TAC if they recommend any projects should be assigned different tiers. Eric Shjarback asked if project cost was a factor in the prioritization methodology. Gabe said that it was not. Kevin said that some projects are short term priorities and others are long term priorities. Eric said that the projects in tier 1 are what he would expect to be there. Gabe asked the TAC to consider the project prioritization and come to the February 5th, 2014 meeting prepared to make a project prioritization recommendation.

6. 2016 Unified Planning Work Program: Gabe reported that SCOG is beginning to develop the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He reviewed the work tasks included in the 2015 UPWP and highlighted potential new work tasks for the next UPWP. Some of the new work tasks include: Economic Impact of Active Transportation Study, Coast to Cascades Corridor Study, and ADA transition planning. SCOG will be

submitting a draft of the 2016 UPWP to WSDOT in March. Gabe asked the TAC to consider other work tasks they would like to see SCOG undertake and discuss them at the February TAC meeting.

7. Roundtable Projects Discussion: Mike Love said that the City of Mount Vernon is hiring a consultant for the design phase of their Bike Walk Mount Vernon 2013 project. John Shambaugh said that WSDOT's Transportation Resiliency Planning Study is nearing completion. Carolyn Chase said that Skagit Transit has hired a consultant for a feasibility study for the siting of a new maintenance and operations building. Brian Dempsey reported that the City of Burlington has nearly completed its signalization project on Burlington Boulevard. Cody Hart said that Concrete's Fire and Life Safety Building will be completed in March. Paul Randall-Grutter described some of the maintenance activities of Skagit County related to recent mudslides. Eric Shjarback reported that construction on a phase of the Guemes Channel Trail is underway and two more phases will be designed soon. Mark Freiberger reported that Sedro-Woolley's Transportation Benefit District is now in effect.

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on February 5th, 2015. The meeting will be held in SCOG conference room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Attest:



Gabe Philips,
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 2/9/15