

# SKAGIT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014  
SCOG, Room C  
Mount Vernon, WA

## AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes ..... Fred Buckenmeyer
- Burlington ..... Brian Dempsey
- Concrete ..... Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon ..... Esco Bell, Mike Love
- Sedro-Woolley ..... Mark Freiberger
- Skagit County ..... Forrest Jones
- Skagit Transit ..... Carolyn Chase
- WSDOT ..... Elizabeth Sjostrom

## STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy ..... Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton ..... Transportation Planner
- 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 SCOG has hired a consultant, EnviroIssues, to assist in an update to the Public Participation Plan (PPP). Part of the update includes conducting interviews with stakeholders. Kevin asked the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) if any members would be interested in being interviewed. Brian Dempsey said that he would like to be interviewed if other stakeholders are not willing to be interviewed.
2. Approval of the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Mark Freiberger made a motion to approve the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 TAC meeting minutes as they were presented. Mike Love seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. 2015-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: At its September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting the TAC recommended that the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) approve the 2015-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Since then, two projects for WSDOT Marine have been included in the project list and one project for Skagit County has been removed. Gabe Philips informed the TAC that the Island TAC and Island Sub-RTPO Policy Board made a recommendation that was slightly different.

The Island County recommendation altered the requirement in the RTIP Policies that a project must be included in the local agency's local TIP prior to applying for regionally managed funding. Instead, Island County recommended that the local agency must have the governing authority approve of the project prior to its submittal. Mike Love said that he agrees with the Island County recommendation because of the considerable effort that must be made to amend Mount Vernon's local TIP. Gabe read from the Revised Code of Washington pertaining to local TIPs that says, "The six-year plan for each city or town shall specifically set forth those projects and programs of regional significance for inclusion in the transportation improvement program within that region."

Mark Freiberger said that he thinks it should be kept as simple as possible. Gabe said that he is primarily concerned with ensuring that the public has a reasonable opportunity to comment on the project at the local level. The general consensus was that a project should be eligible to apply for regional funds if the project sponsor could provide evidence that the public has had a reasonable opportunity to comment on the specific project and that it has been approved by the governing body prior to application.

4. Regional Non-Motorized Plan: Gabe Philips presented an updated regional non-motorized priority map. This map represents a long-range vision of the non-motorized network and can be used to identify regional priorities for funding. The TAC discussed several edits to the map proposed by Gabe.

Gabe also presented on how he has reduced the size of the project list. First, projects were determined to be regional, community or local in scale. Local projects will not be included in the Regional Non-Motorized Plan because they do not have regional impact. Projects were then filtered by the focus of their implementation. Non-motorized projects that are small portions of larger roadway projects, such as including sidewalks on a new bridge at the George Hopper Road interchange, were suggested to be removed from consideration. Mark Freiberger said that general purpose roadway projects with non-motorized components should be considered in the Regional Non-Motorized Plan if they are located on the regional priority routes. Gabe said that he would prepare updated maps and project lists for the TAC to review.

5. Roundtable Projects Discussion: Mike Love said that Mount Vernon's floodwall project recently had a ribbon cutting and it will be open to the public soon. Around \$3 million is still needed to complete the project. Forrest Jones reported that the design phase has begun for the Burlington Northern Overpass project, which is still \$4 million short on funding. He also said that the Bow Hill Road project is in the design phase as well. Gabe asked if the County intends to obligate the construction funding in the next fiscal year and Forrest indicated that they did. Mark Freiberger asked if any other agencies had taken the survey regarding Americans with Disabilities Transition Planning. No other TAC members had taken the survey. Liz McNett Crowl reported that the Active Community Taskforce is finishing up bicycle and pedestrian counts this week. The counts will be used to establish a data baseline to track non-motorized travel.

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The meeting will be held in SCOG conference room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Attest:

  
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Gabe Philips,  
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 11/6/14 \_\_\_\_\_