

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SKAGIT SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 4th, 2016
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

- Center for Independence Shawn Latham
- Mercy Transportation Shirley Allen
- Northwest Educational Service District #189 Anna Esquibel
- Samish Indian Nation Zam DeShields
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe Natalie Misanes, Joni Soriano
- Skagit Transit Marcy Smith, Brad Windler
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Tara Satushek
- Volunteers of America: North Sound 211 Elisa Delgado
- Washington State Department of Transportation Ryan Warner

STAFF PRESENT

- Mark Hamilton Transportation Planner
- Gabe Philips Transportation Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

- University of Washington Nick Bolten
- Whatcom Council of Governments Mary Anderson

MINUTES

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

1. Introductions: Mark Hamilton welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting of the Skagit Special Needs Transportation Committee (Committee) and then members went around the table introducing themselves and their employers. Mary Anderson and Nick Bolten were guests of the Committee and introduced themselves as well.
2. September 6th, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Mr. Hamilton presented draft minutes from the last Committee meeting. Committee members reviewed the minutes and had no changes.
3. Committee Recommendation on Evaluation of Projects: Mr. Hamilton provided an update on the Committee's recommendation to the SCOG Transportation Policy Board (TPB) on the evaluation of human services transportation projects. The recommendation was presented to the TPB at their September meeting and discussed at that time. Action on approving the evaluation is anticipated at their October meeting following a public comment period.

Mr. Hamilton went over the expected timeline going forward and Committee members asked several clarifying questions about the regional prioritization process.

4. Work Session – WSDOT Consolidated Grants Program: The Committee discussed the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Consolidated Grants Program and had several questions for Mr. Hamilton, Ryan Warner and other Committee members. Mr. Warner noted that the deadline to submit to WSDOT

is October 14th, and that WSDOT will be reviewing applications shortly thereafter and requesting more information of applicants where needed.

The Committee discussed potential applications to the WSDOT Consolidated Grants Program that would be going through the Skagit process. Potential projects from Concrete, Sauk-Suiattle, Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG), the University of Washington (UW) and Skagit Transit were discussed. Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that SCOG has 3 As, 3 Bs, and 3 Cs to assign to projects with an unlimited number of Ds. Based on these project discussions, it seemed that all 9 A – Cs would likely be used in the Skagit region.

Youth transportation and the limitations on funding streams from the Federal Transportation Administration were noted along with identified needs to get students from Whatcom to Skagit County, outside of busing services provided by local school districts. Committee members discussed options to address these needs.

Mobility management was discussed at the countywide and multi-county levels. An implementation measure in the Skagit-Island Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) is the designation of a North Puget Sound Mobility Manager to coordinate human services transportation providers across counties and address many cross-county challenges. The Whatcom Council of Governments is considering applying through the WSDOT Consolidated Grants Program for a multi-county mobility manager and has been scoping the potential project with Island County and SCOG. Mary Anderson mentioned that Mr. Hamilton had suggested at the last Farmhouse Gang meeting that the North Puget Sound Mobility Manager was an implementation measure in the Skagit-Island HSTP and that potential applicants for mobility management positions may want to consider expanding the role to more of a regional, multi-county position.

Nick Bolten described a project that the University of Washington is considering applying for. The project would map accessibility features and disseminate the information through an online map. Similar work has already occurred in the Seattle area, and the UW is talking with potential partners about expanding the effort to other areas, such as urban areas in Whatcom and Skagit counties. The project would combine Americans with Disabilities Act data generated by cities with user generated data to map infrastructure and provide a route planning tool for persons with disabilities including features such as sidewalk slope, presence of curb ramps and crosswalks.

Marcy Smith and Brad Windler described the projects that Skagit Transit is considering applying for including service expansion, mobility management, replacing paratransit vehicles, equipment retrofits and an ADA planning project for transit stops.

Joni Soriano indicated that the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe would likely be applying to continue the tribal transit service on State Route 530 that they are just now beginning to operate. Mr. Hamilton also noted that Concrete staff has talked about applying for a feeder service to connect to the new park and ride in Concrete and has been coordinating with Skagit Transit and SCOG staffs on the project idea.

5. Roundtable: There were no additional items for the roundtable discussion.
6. Next Meeting November 8th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.: The Committee confirmed that their next meeting would be on November 8th, 2016 at SCOG Room C. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that he would be in regular contact with the Committee leading up to the November 8th meeting regarding the WSDOT application deadline, SCOG application deadline and evaluation of projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Hamilton, AICP
Skagit Council of Governments

Date _____