

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 7th, 2017
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes Eric Shjarback (left meeting at 2:30 PM)
- Concrete Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon Mike Love (left meeting at 2:25 PM)
- Skagit County Forrest Jones
- Skagit Transit Brad Windler
- Washington State Department of Transportation John Shambaugh

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton Transportation Planner
- Rose Howe Transportation Planning Intern

OTHERS PRESENT

- Suak-Suiattle Indian Tribe Joni Soriano
- Suak-Suiattle Indian Tribe Natalie Misanes

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

1. SCOG Report: Kevin Murphy reported Gabe Philips will be leaving SCOG to begin a position at WSDOT in Olympia, and SCOG’s current intern, Rose Howe, will be hired as an Assistant Planner. Mr. Murphy also reported that SCOG is in the process of signing a lease for new office space at the National Electric Contractors Association building in Mount Vernon, across Montgomery Street from SCOG’s current location. Mr. Murphy also discussed funding opportunities for transportation projects, including \$500 million through the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program. Mr. Murphy said that regional transportation planning organizations met with WSDOT’s Secretary of Transportation last month, and Secretary Millar was supportive of their request for a funding increase. Mr. Murphy announced that WSDOT has adopted new safety targets, and MPOs have 6 months to follow and adopt safety targets. Rose Howe reported the annual bicycle and pedestrian count will be taking place September 26-28, and volunteers are currently being recruited.
2. Approval of the August 3rd, 2017 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: Eric Shjarback moved to approve the August 3rd, 2017 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting minutes. Brad Windler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Amendment to the 2017-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Mark Hamilton presented the following Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendment request:
 - Anacortes
 - 32nd Street and D Avenue Intersection Improvements

Before the vote, Eric Shjarback explained the amendment would help the project’s environmental review process move forward. Mike Love made a motion to recommend the RTIP amendment for approval to the Transportation Policy Board as presented. John Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 4. 2018-2023 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Mark Hamilton reported the Regional Transportation Improvement Program is developed annually and goes before the Transportation Policy Board for consideration of approval in October. Mr. Hamilton also discussed the new section in the RTIP this year, an Environmental Justice analysis. Joni Soriano asked what data SCOG used to conduct the Environmental Justice analysis, and expressed her concern with the accuracy of Census data for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation. Mr. Hamilton responded that data comes from the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey, and many Census geographies in east Skagit County are larger due to lower population density in the area – income data for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation was analyzed at the larger Census tract geography. Staff will be asking the Transportation Policy Board to release the proposed RTIP for public comment later in September and the RTIP will come back before the Technical Advisory Committee for a recommendation at the October meeting.
- 5. Project Obligation Procedures between SCOG and Local Agencies: Kevin Murphy reported that SCOG fell short of its 2017 obligation target for the second year in a row, but the Washington State Department of Transportation will not sanction any funds from the region because of an interpretation of the when the sanction penalty timeframe would begin. To meet future obligation targets, Mr. Murphy described a new project obligation procedure: the preparation of project schedules for each project in the first and second year of the RTIP. The project schedules will detail the steps each jurisdiction will take to obligate their projects before the obligation deadline in August, and the project schedules will be presented to the Transportation Policy Board. The Technical Advisory Committee could choose to vet each other’s project schedules as well.

The Technical Advisory Committee discussed the new project obligation procedures that will be developed later this year. TAC members discussed the current obligation target compliance measures, and expressed concern that current obligation procedures do not leave enough time to obligate contingency list projects when the designated projects in the RTIP cannot meet their obligation targets. The TAC discussed the Burlington project that could not obligate funds this year and considered how projects from the later years in the RTIP can move forward to potentially obligate funds sooner so the region will not be sanctioned next year. Several ideas were presented to inform the new procedures including: expanding project scopes of past projects awarded regional funds and adding funding to these projects without an additional competitive project selection process; adding transit capital projects to a contingency list that could obligate quickly; and developing project schedules for all four years of the fiscally constrained RTIP instead of only the first two years.

- 6. Roundtable Discussion: Technical Advisory Committee members gave updates on their current projects.

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on October 5th, 2017 in SCOG, Room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Attest:

Mark Hamilton,
Skagit Council of Governments

Date _____