

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 7, 2017
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Anacortes Steve Lange (Arrived 1:43 PM)
- Concrete..... Cody Hart
- Samish Indian NationNora Pederson
- Sedro-Woolley Mark Freiberger (Arrived 1:32 PM)
- Skagit County Keith Elefson
- Skagit Transit Brad Windler (1:35 PM)
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community..... Keri Cleary
- Washington State Department of Transportation John Shambaugh

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton Transportation Planner
- Rose Howe Assistant Planner

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) Technical Advisory Committee members stated their name and positions before the committee.
2. Approval of the September 7 and November 2, 2017 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: Cody Hart moved to approve the September 7 meeting minutes. Mark Freiberger seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Mark Freiberger made a motion to approve the November 2 meeting minutes. Keri Cleary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Cook Road Corridor Study: Mark Hamilton reported that the final draft of the Cook Road Corridor Study is now available. Mr. Hamilton stated there were no content changes between the draft version and final version of the study. Mr. Hamilton reviewed the study's findings and two recommendations.

Mr. Hamilton stated that higher resolution copies of images found in the study are available upon request. There were no comments from Technical Advisory Committee members.

4. Base Project Schedule Form with Sample Project from SCOG: Kevin Murphy reported SCOG did not meet its August 2017 obligation target. Mr. Murphy said the statewide process sanctions Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) if they miss obligation targets two years in a row. Mr. Murphy explained SCOG has until August 2018 to meet both its August 2017 and August 2018 obligation targets. Mr. Murphy reported he will represent SCOG at a statewide MPO coordination meeting in February and will need to demonstrate whether the region's project sponsors are capable of fulfilling SCOG's obligation authority. In advance of that meeting, copies of Base Project Schedule forms will

be given to Transportation Policy Board members at their January meeting to inform Board members whether project sponsors will be able to obligate their funds before the August deadline.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members discussed the Base Project Schedule form and statewide project obligation procedures. TAC members stated their agreement to the form, but questioned whether the form will be meaningful for projects occurring in the later program years of the Regional Transportation Improvement Programs. TAC members also discussed the need for a more diverse and extensive contingency list of competitively selected projects. Additionally, TAC members expressed concern about the ability for projects with large amounts of awarded funds to obligate on time across the next two years of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Cody Hart discussed a new administrative procedure with the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Hart stated that local agencies are now following a federal process, instituted by Washington State Department of Transportation's Local Programs, which they have been required to follow. Mr. Hart stated there is another process, utilized in Thurston County, where one or two local agencies can be selected to receive all Surface Transportation Program federal funds and exchange funds with other jurisdictions through interlocal agreements. Under this process, projects would still have to be competitively selected, but federal monies could be focused on a few projects while freeing other projects from federal requirements. Mr. Hart said this process would eliminate the federal nexus in distributing transportation funding and reduce overall project costs. Mr. Hart urged the TAC to consider using this process in Skagit County.

Kevin Murphy reported federal funds still need to be competitively awarded in this process, and he mentioned Washington state MPOs have only discussed the procedure used in Thurston County briefly. TAC members expressed interest in learning more about the procedure and asked Mr. Murphy to get more details about Thurston's procedure.

Cody Hart reported Concrete's Cedar Street project has been deprogrammed. Funds for the project have been obtained through a non-federal source and the federal funds are no longer needed.

Mark Hamilton stated Base Project Schedule forms will be updated and sent to members of the Technical Advisory Committee for completion.

5. Regional Safety Performance Targets (moved to #6 on the agenda): Mark Hamilton reported Washington state and its MPOs are setting performance targets, and safety targets are the first Federal Highway Administration regional targets that need to be set SCOG. Mr. Hamilton stated SCOG, as an MPO, has until February to set regional safety targets. Mr. Hamilton reported SCOG has two options: SCOG can set quantifiable targets for the region agree to plan and program projects to help the state meet their statewide safety targets. TAC members asked a series of clarifying questions and discussed the behavioral causes of roadway collisions. TAC members expressed interest in selecting quantifiable targets for the region.
6. Regional Transportation Priorities for the Next Legislative Session (moved to #5 on the agenda): Kevin Murphy asked TAC members to inform SCOG about what transportation funding local jurisdictions will be requesting during the next legislative session. Mr. Murphy reviewed the projects listed in SCOG's last legislative priority list, and noted the region has done well securing funds over the past four years.

Mark Freiburger discussed a railroad undercrossing project being considered on the Jones/John Liner Corridor. Mr. Freiburger said Sedro-Woolley may pursue funding for this project from the legislature in the future. Cody Hart said Cook Road is the region's largest priority for the next legislative session.

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

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on January 4, 2017. SCOG staff will announce the meeting location at least a week prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Attest:

Mark Hamilton,
Skagit Council of Governments

Date _____

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