

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 7, 2021
GoToMeeting Remote Meeting

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- City of Anacortes..... Tim Hohmann
- City of Mount Vernon Bill Bullock
- City of Sedro-Woolley Mark Freiberger
- Samish Indian Nation..... David Strich
- Skagit County Torey Nelson
- Skagit PUD..... Chris Shaff
- Skagit Transit..... Brad Windler
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Keri Cleary
- Town of La Conner Scott Thomas
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)..... John Shambaugh,
Mehrdad Moini (arrived 1:39 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton..... Senior Transportation Planner
- Katie Bunge..... Associate Planner

1. Call to Order: 1:33 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Approval of December 3, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Bullock moved approval of the December 3, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. January Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Mr. Hamilton presented two amendments submitted during the January 2021 amendment cycle for the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. These amendments would affect the 2021–2024 STIP, which is anticipated to go into effect in early January:

- Skagit County
 - Active Warning Signs (Install Active Warning Signs)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
 - SR 20/Fish Creek & Lorenzan Creek – Fish Passage

Mr. Hamilton explained that the Active Warning Signs RTIP amendment would add the project back into the RTIP. The project was previously programmed in the 2019 RTIP, and must be reprogrammed in the RTIP in order to obligate construction funds.

The amendment to the SR 20/Fish Creek & Lorenzan Creek project would change the funding source programmed in the RTIP, as well as update the project cost and total project length. There is a public comment period underway for the RTIP amendments, and these would come before the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) at their January meeting.

Mr. Freiberger moved to recommend the January Regional Transportation Improvement Program amendments as presented, and Mr. Windler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Skagit 2045 Regional Transportation Plan: Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that the Skagit 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the Federal and state compliant long range plan for the Skagit region. The RTP must be adopted by March 2021 in order for SCOG to remain in compliance as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). Staff is working on completing the draft RTP and will include it in the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting packet on January 13, 2021. At this time, staff will also send the draft RTP to the TAC for review. The TPB is anticipated to release the draft RTP for public comment at its January meeting.

Mr. Hamilton noted that staff had met with most TAC members regarding projects to be included in the RTP project list. For any project located on a state route, WSDOT is reviewing those projects and providing comments. Some notable issues to highlight in the draft RTP include large expenditures from the Washington State Ferries including five vessel replacements within the plan horizon, fish passage projects as an issue in the Skagit region, and the maintenance and preservation needs of the roadway system. Staff will present more on the draft RTP at the February TAC meeting.

5. 2021 Highway Safety Targets: Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that it is SCOG's responsibility as an MPO to set highway safety targets corresponding to the Federal Performance Measures each year, or to agree to plan and program projects to help Washington state meet its target. State and regional safety data related to the performance measures is now available for the most recent five year rolling average, 2015-2019. In general, all performance measures are trending in the wrong direction both statewide and regionally. Fatalities and fatality rates, serious injuries and serious injury rates, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries are all increasing both statewide and regionally.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the 2021 Highway Safety Targets will come to the TAC next month for a recommendation; the staff recommendation will be to continue to plan and program projects to help Washington state meet its target.

6. 2021 Project Selection: Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that a project selection is scheduled for completion in June 2021. Staff intends to combine Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and transportation alternatives (STBG set-aside) project selections at the same time. Staff recommends combining project selection for administrative efficiencies. The TPB will ultimately decide whether to combine the project selections. If the project selection is combined, staff would revisit previous application forms and possibly combine them into one consolidated application.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the evaluation process for the 2021 Project Selection would come through the TAC to the TPB; then a call for projects would begin. The TAC will ultimately recommend projects to the TPB for selection. The Non-Motorized Advisory Committee (NMAC) would have a role in advising the TAC on the non-motorized components of the project selection. It is anticipated that this project selection would fill years 2026 and 2027 of the RTIP. SCOG is still waiting

to receive a final regional obligation authority (OA) target for 2021; this will affect the amount available for the project selection.

Mr. Windler asked if this project selection would include a 10% set-aside for non-motorized projects, similar to previous project selections. Mr. Hamilton confirmed that it may, but the TPB would ultimately decide whether or not to continue this practice. A recommendation to continue the 10% set-aside for non-motorized projects could come through the NMAC and TAC to the TPB. Mr. Hamilton clarified that staff expects the practice of selecting projects to be placed on a contingency list to continue in this project selection.

- 7. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Technical Advisory Committee members gave updates on their current projects.
- 8. Next Meeting: February 4, 2021
- 9. Adjourned: 2:47 p.m.

Attest:

Kevin Murphy
Skagit Council of Governments

Date

