

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2022

GoToMeeting Remote Meeting

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- City of Anacortes..... Tim Hohmann, Steve Lange
- City of Burlington Brian Dempsey
- City of Mount Vernon Bill Bullock
- City of Sedro-Woolley Mark Freiberger
- Samish Indian Nation.....David Strich
- Skagit CountyForrest Jones, Paul Randall-Grutter
- Skagit PUD..... Chris Shaff
- Skagit Transit.....Brad Windler
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Keri Cleary
- Town of Concrete..... Cody Hart
- Washington State Department of Transportation Mehrdad Moini, John Shambaugh

STAFF PRESENT

- Skagit Council of Governments Kevin Murphy, Mark Hamilton, Grant Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT

No one else was present at the meeting.

1. Call to Order: 1:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. February 3, 2022 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes: Mr. Windler moved approval of the February 3, 2022 Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented, and Mr. Bullock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. March Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Mr. Hamilton presented the proposed March amendments to the 2022–2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). One of the proposed amendments is from the Town of Concrete and three are from Skagit County. The Town of Concrete amendment is for an appeal that was approved by the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) the previous month, and the Skagit County projects were unable to obligate their construction phases last year and need to be reprogrammed before they can receive federal authorization.

Mr. Hohmann motioned to recommend approval of the March RTIP amendments to the Transportation Policy Board as presented, and Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. National Highway Freight Program Project List Recommendation: Mr. Hamilton presented the National Highway Freight Program Project List Recommendation. SCOG issued a call for projects last month and the process has moved on a very short timeline. The Transportation Policy Board will consider a list of projects for approval, followed by submission to the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), with WSDOT ultimately determining which projects receive funding. One project sponsored by Skagit County had been received by the deadline, and another project sponsored by the City of Anacortes had been submitted a day after the deadline. Following the staff presentation, project sponsors presented their projects and answered questions from the TAC.

Mr. Jones gave a summary of the proposed I-5/Cook Road Interchange project. He explained that Skagit County worked with WSDOT to prepare the application. Mr. Hamilton stated that the total federal funds requested for the project is \$5,892,000.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the City of Anacortes R Avenue project was submitted after the call for projects deadline closed. Mr. Hohmann stated that there was a miscommunication with the grant writers that caused them to believe that the application was due on a later date. He asked that the TAC consider recommending the City of Anacortes project even though the application was submitted after the deadline, and then briefed the TAC on the project specifics. He stated that the total federal funds requested for the project is \$3,484,000.

Mr. Bullock stated that he was in favor of letting the City of Anacortes application move forward and that he had no objection to either project.

Mr. Windler motioned to recommend approval of the Cook Road / I-5 Vicinity Improvements and R Avenue Long-Term Improvements projects to the Transportation Policy Board. Mr. Bullock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 2022 Obligation Authority Plan and Obligation Authority Process: Mr. Hamilton presented the 2022 Obligation Authority Plan and Obligation Authority Process. The Obligation Authority Plan is updated throughout the year and because the City of Burlington received an extension on the SR20 / Skagit Street Signalization Project, a gap of approximately \$1.3 million exists that will need to be filled. He then explained the Obligation Authority Process and the different gap strategies available that will be utilized at the April TAC meeting.

Mr. Hart asked if there had been any feedback on statewide obligation authority concerns. Mr. Murphy responded that statewide obligations are below where they typically are this time of year. Mr. Windler asked when the next regional call for projects would be held. Mr. Hamilton stated that the next call for projects would likely be in 2023, as they occur every two years and last occurred in 2021. He stated that the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act may create an additional project selection process for SCOG for the newly established Carbon Reduction Program.

6. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Mr. Hamilton stated that SCOG staff would be reaching out with an online survey asking about in-person vs. virtual meeting preferences for future TAC meetings. Technical Advisory Committee members provided project updates for their jurisdictions.
7. Next Meeting: April 7, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
8. Adjourned: 2:32 p.m.



Attest:

Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

DRAFT