

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 16th, 2017
Burlington City Council Chambers
Burlington, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Voting Members: Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes, Chair; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County, Vice-Chair; Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon; Mayor Joan Cromley, Town of Hamilton; Jaye Drye, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County; Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner; Treasurer Katie Jungquist, Skagit County; Commissioner John Pope, Port of Anacortes; Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; Mayor Keith Wagoner, City of Sedro-Woolley.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Pam Carlson, Finance Manager; Mark Hamilton, Transportation Planner; Gabe Philips, Transportation Planner; Rose Howe, Intern.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT

There were five members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Mayor Gere called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.
Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.
2. Public Comment: Carol Ehlers said she was pleased that notice of this meeting appeared in the Skagit Valley Herald. Ms. Ehlers urged the Board to provide more public notice of their meetings, stating the public does not know about SCOG although it has been around for 50 years. Ms. Ehlers also reported there was insufficient public notice about a meeting hosted by WSDOT for the Sharpe's Corner intersection and described concerns she had about trucks merging in the intersection. Ms. Ehlers concluded with a request for the Board to have a better advertising process.
3. Chair's Report: Mayor Gere had nothing to report.
4. Executive Director's Report: Kevin Murphy reported the North Sound Connecting Communities Project (The Farmhouse Gang) will be hosting a health and transportation workshop on September 8th, 2017. Mr. Murphy stated a number of health officials have been invited to discuss how to more effectively transport people seeking medical care across Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan, and northern Snohomish counties. Mr. Murphy also reported that a summary of his meeting with Washington State Secretary of Transportation, Roger Millar, was included in the packet given to the Board this month.
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the July 19th, 2017 Transportation Policy Board meeting minutesMayor Hayes moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Action Items
 - a. Adopt 2017 Public Participation Plan: Mark Hamilton said SCOG updated its Public Participation Plan 7 (PPP) in 2015. Suggested changes were identified in the annual review of the PPP in 2016. Mr. Hamilton discussed some of these updates, which included:
 - Removal of references to Island County;
 - Replacement of Island County photos with photos from Skagit County;

- Updated committee names and information;
- Updated information about federal laws; and
- A description of SCOG's more formalized role with the Growth Management Act Steering Committee.

Mr. Hamilton reported the draft PPP was released for a 47 day public comment period, and notice was posted on SCOG's website as well as in the Skagit Valley Herald. No public comments were received. Mr. Hamilton recommended approval of the PPP. Mayor Boudreau stated that she read the plan, and she found the plan was easy to read and improved the transparency of SCOG processes by clearly describing the ways the public can participate. Commissioner Wesen thanked SCOG staff for their work on the PPP.

Mayor Boudreau moved to adopt Resolution 2017-07 to Adopt the 2017 Public Participation Plan. Mayor Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Approve August Amendment to the 2017-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Gabe Philips presented four projects to be added to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program:
- Burlington
 - George Hopper Interchange Improvements, Phase I
 - Intersection Modification at Cherry Street and Fairhaven Avenue
 - Skagit County
 - Guemes Ferry Boat Replacement or Overhaul/Modification
 - Washington State Department of Transportation – Northwest Region
 - SR 538/Leigh Way to N 43rd Place – ADA Compliance

Mayor Boudreau moved to approve the August Amendment to the 2017-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Resolution to Endorse the Nomination of Three United States Bicycle Routes in Skagit County: John Pope of the Cascade Bicycle Club presented plans for three new United States Bicycle Routes (USBRS) passing through Skagit County – USBR 87, 95, and 97. In his presentation, Mr. Pope described the history of the U.S. Bicycle Route System, the coordination and designation process for bicycle routes, the benefits routes bring to communities, and the current status of the three new routes.

Commissioner Wesen asked Mr. Pope if anything was expected of the county following the designation of the three bicycle routes. Mr. Pope responded there are no entry fees or required infrastructure improvements related to establishing U.S. Bicycle Routes, and Mr. Pope reiterated that he was just asking for approval of recommended paths through Skagit County.

Mayor Wagoner said he liked how the bicycle routes will bring more people to Sedro-Woolley, but he questioned how there can be no additional maintenance or facility improvements after the routes are designated. Mayor Wagoner also expressed concern about bicyclists using the Skagit River Bridge on SR 9. Mr. Pope replied it is possible to add safety devices to the bridge, such as buttons bicyclists press before crossing the bridge that activate signals to alert approaching drivers. Mr. Pope said improvements are not required for routes to qualify for the bicycle route program but could be beneficial to consider.

Mayor Wagoner asked an additional question about whether designation of U.S. Bicycle Routes can be leveraged to improve bridges for other types of traffic. Jaye Drye responded that he was not aware of specific grants for projects of that kind, but improvement projects that benefit U.S. Bicycle Routes could earn more points during funding processes. Mayor Hayes said he liked the idea of using non-motorized projects to get support for other transportation projects.

Mayor Hayes moved to adopt Resolution 2017-08 to Support the Nomination of Three United States Bicycle Routes – US BR 87, 95, and 96 – in Skagit County. Mayor Sexton seconded the motion. Before the vote, Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if the bike routes would use all public roads and if there were concerns for private property owners. Mr. Pope confirmed the bike routes would use only public roads. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: No items were discussed during the roundtable discussion.
- 8. Next Meeting: The next Transportation Policy Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 20th, 2017 at the Lyman Old Town Hall at 1:30 PM.
- 9. Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Information Items: The Transportation Policy Board was provided with a summary from the meeting between WSDOT Secretary Roger Millar and SCOG's Executive Director, draft meeting minutes from the August 3, 2017 Technical Advisory Committee meeting, and a monthly financial update.



Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 9-20-2017

Approved,



Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes
Transportation Policy Board Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 9/20/17