

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
GoToMeeting Remote Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County, Vice-Chair; Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon; Jay Drye, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Commissioner Germaine Kornegay, Skagit PUD; Commissioner Steve Omdal, Port of Skagit (arrived 1:46 p.m.); Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County; and Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Katie Bunge, Associate Planner; Pam Carlson, Finance Manager; and Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Browning called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Written Public Comments: Mr. Hamilton explained that while there is no opportunity for verbal public comment during the remote meeting, written comments were accepted between the time when the meeting materials were released, and the day prior to the meeting. During that timeframe, no public comments were received.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of March 17, 2021 Transportation Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Mayor Boudreau moved to approve the March 17, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, and Mayor Gere seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Action Items

- a. 2021 Regional Project Selection Evaluation Process: Mr. Hamilton reminded the Board that it is Skagit Council of Governments' duty to select projects for certain federal funds, and that approximately \$3.5 million is available for funding through this project selection. If approved, a call for projects would begin on April 23 and run through May 14. A public comment period on the regional project selection evaluation process was held since the March TPB meeting, and one commenter submitted comments. Comments and staff responses are included with the meeting packet.

Mr. Hamilton explained that in past years, the Board has chosen to set aside a minimum 10% of the Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for non-roadway projects. This year, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed this topic and had no recommendation for the Board.

Project sponsors who moved projects ahead through SCOG's regional transportation improvement program (RTIP) procedures last year in order to help meet the regional obligation authority target are eligible for bonus points in this year's project selection. However, it is at

the discretion of the Board to decide how many bonus points to award to these project sponsors. Eligible project sponsors are the cities of Anacortes and Mount Vernon, as well as the Samish Indian Nation. For reference in making this bonus-point determination, Mr. Hamilton said that in the 2019 project selection, scores ranged from 19 to 75, with a median score of 51 out of 100.

Board members discussed the non-roadway set-aside, and supported continuing the practice, but setting aside 5% of the STBG funds for non-roadway projects. Board members also discussed awarding five bonus points to eligible project sponsors.

Mayor Gere moved to approve the 2021 Project Selection Evaluation Process with a minimum 5% set-aside for non-roadway projects and five bonus points to project sponsors who moved projects forward through the RTIP procedures in 2019. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Unified Planning Work Program for State Fiscal Year 2022: Mr. Hamilton said that the unified planning work program (UPWP) is the work program for SCOG's transportation activities and aligns with the state fiscal year. A draft UPWP for the 2022 state fiscal year is included in the meeting packet. The UPWP outlines expected transportation work activities, along with revenue and expenditures. Revenue includes federal and state grants that come to SCOG for transportation-related purposes, along with SCOG member dues that provide the federal match. SCOG includes planning projects conducted by other agencies at the end of the UPWP, along with a long-term work schedule. Earlier in April, SCOG staff met with Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and WSDOT staffs to review and discuss the draft UPWP. The UPWP will come back to the Board as an action item at the next meeting.

6. Chair's Report: Commissioner Browning had nothing to report.

7. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Murphy had nothing to report.

8. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Mr. Drye informed the Board that construction work on the Interstate 5 Stillaguamish River Bridge was beginning, along with work on an Interstate 5 fish-passage project in Whatcom County. Chairman Wooten asked about the progress on the Deception Pass/Canoe Pass bridge painting project. Mr. Drye explained that the contractor for that project was terminated, and a new contractor is now in place. Progress is being made on the bridge painting, but the project is expected to extend into 2022.

Commissioner Janicki said that she had met with some farmers in eastern Skagit County, and was asked about proposed wildlife-crossing projects on State Route 20. Mr. Drye explained that no wildlife-crossing projects are planned at the moment, but that WSDOT is beginning a planning process to look at the State Route 20 corridor as a whole, exploring solutions for fish passages as well as wildlife crossings. After being asked, Mr. Drye mentioned that he had not seen recent data on elk-related collisions on that corridor.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., via the GoToMeeting remote meeting platform.

10. Adjourned: Commissioner Browning adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Information Items: The Board was provided with a monthly financial update, draft minutes from the April 1, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee meeting, the 2020 Annual Listing of Federal Obligations, the 2021 Obligation Authority Plan, and letters of support and other letters.



Approved,

Date: _____

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County
Transportation Policy Board Vice-Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

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