

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 15, 2024

Anticipated start time is 9:30 a.m. following the Transportation Policy Board meeting

In Person: [Burlington City Council Chambers](#), 833 South Spruce Street, Burlington, WA 98233

Remote: [GoToMeeting](#)

Dial In: 1 (866) 899-4679

Access Code: 112-023-781

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Written Public Comments** – *Grant Johnson*
3. **Verbal Public Comments**
4. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of [February 21, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
 - b. Approval of [Accounts Payable Vouchers](#) and Payroll Certification
AP voucher batch #149103, and AP voucher batch #149268 in an amount totaling \$49,359.23; and payroll certification for February 2024 in the amount of \$47,980.90. AP voucher batch #149450, and AP voucher batch #149623 in an amount totaling \$30,451.17; and payroll certification for March 2024 in the amount of \$47,237.42. AP voucher batch #149826, AP voucher batch #149983, and AP voucher batch #149623 in an amount totaling \$30,381.17; and payroll certification for April 2024 in the amount of \$46,978.98.
5. **Discussion Items**
 - a. [2025 Dues](#) – *Kevin Murphy*
6. **Chair’s Report**
7. **Executive Director’s Report**
8. **Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion**
9. **Next Meeting:** August 21, 2024, Time TBD, *Burlington City Council Chambers and Remote*
10. **Adjourned**

Information Items:

[Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update](#)
[Year to Date Actual vs. Budget – January through March 2024](#)
[Quarterly Financial Update](#)
[Annual Report](#)

[Meeting Packet](#)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Commissioner Peter Browning Chair

Mayor Matt Miller Vice-Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP AND VOTES

Anacortes.....	1	Port of Anacortes	1
Burlington	1	Port of Skagit	1
Concrete.....	1	Samish Indian Nation.....	1
Hamilton.....	1	Sedro-Woolley	1
La Conner	1	Skagit County	3
Lyman	1	Skagit Public Utility District.....	1
Mount Vernon	1	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.....	1

QUORUM REQUIREMENT

A quorum consists of a simple majority (9) of the total votes (16).

Title VI Notice to the Public: The Skagit Council of Governments fully complies with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit SCOG’s website at <http://scog.net/about/nondiscrimination/>.

Aviso resumido del Título VI al público: El Consejo de gobiernos de Skagit cumple plenamente con el Título VI de la Ley federal de derechos civiles de 1964 y los estatutos relacionados, y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional. Para mayor información, o para obtener un Formulario de queja del Título VI, visite el sitio web del SCOG en <http://scog.net/about/nondiscrimination/>.

ADA Notice to the Public: The Skagit Council of Governments fully complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. For more information, or to file a grievance contact the ADA Coordinator, Kevin Murphy at 360-416-7871 or kmurphy@scog.net.

Aviso de la ADA para el público: El Consejo de Gobiernos de Skagit cumple plenamente con la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973 y la Ley de Americanos con Discapacidades de 1990 (ADA) y no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad. Para obtener más información, o para presentar una queja, póngase en contacto con el Coordinador de la ADA, Kevin Murphy en 360-416-7871 or kmurphy@scog.net.

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2024
Burlington City Council Chambers and Remote

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington, Chair; Mayor Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon; Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County; Commissioner Mahlon Hull, Port of Skagit; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Julia Johnson, City of Sedro-Woolley; Commissioner Joe Lindquist, Skagit Public Utility District; Mayor Matt Miller, City of Anacortes; Mayor Marla Reed, Town of Concrete; Commissioner Jon Ronngren, Port of Anacortes; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County; and Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Debbie Carter, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board; Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner; Grant Johnson, Associate Planner; and Sarah Ruether, Associate Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Cubellis, Whatcom Council of Governments; Chris Townsend, Seattle City Light; Terry Nelson, Mary Wohleb and Greg Whiting, Skagit Valley Clean Energy Alliance. One member of the public attended the meeting.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Mayor Sexton called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.
2. Written Public Comments: Mr. Hamilton stated that a public comment period for the meeting was held from February 14-20, and no comments were received during that timeframe.
3. In-person and Remote Verbal Public Comments: No verbal public comments were provided at the meeting.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of October 18, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Certification

AP voucher batch #147596, AP voucher batch #147752 and AP voucher batch #147774 in an amount totaling \$43,673.14; and payroll certification for October 2023 in the amount of \$36,397.45. AP voucher batch #147960 and AP voucher batch #148109 in an amount totaling \$25,603.59; and payroll certification for November 2023 in the amount of \$36,884.46. AP voucher batch #148329, AP voucher batch #148437 and AP voucher batch #148498 in an amount totaling \$45,781.89; and payroll certification for December 2023 in the amount of \$36,406.61. AP voucher batch #148718, AP voucher batch #148879 and AP voucher batch #148911 in an amount totaling \$43,882.28; and payroll certification for January 2024 in the amount of \$41,132.51.

Mayor Miller moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mayor Donovan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Action Items

- a. Election of 2024 Chair and Vice-Chair: Mayor Sexton requested nominations for Board of Directors Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Browning nominated himself for Chair and Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Miller nominated himself for Vice-Chair and Mayor Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Resolution 2024-02 To Approve 2024 Cost Allocation Plan: Mr. Murphy and Mr. Cubellis presented this action item. The proposed 2024 Cost Allocation Plan is based on SCOG's 2024 Budget, adjusted for under recovery of indirect costs and under recovery of fringe benefit costs during 2023. If actual costs and direct labor allocations were exactly as budgeted for the year there would be no under or over recovery. The indirect cost rate is stated as a percentage of SCOG's total indirect costs to its non-indirect labor costs and the fringe benefit rate is stated as a percentage of total fringe benefits to total labor costs. Fringe benefits include employer paid payroll taxes and pension contributions mandated by law, vacation/sick/holiday leave, and employee healthcare benefits. Preparation and approval of a cost allocation plan is a process SCOG undertakes every year, with approval occurring early each calendar year. The draft 2024 Cost Allocation Plan is included in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Wesen moved to adopt Resolution 2024-02 To Approve 2024 Cost Allocation Plan. Mayor Julia Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

- a. Update on Relicensing Skagit River Hydroelectric Project: Mr. Townsend of Seattle City Light gave a presentation for this discussion item. The presenter described existing components of the Skagit River Project including: dams; powerhouses; reservoirs; company towns; and transmission lines. Mr. Townsend then discussed engaging Indian tribal governments, the relicensing timeline, operational priorities and flood risk management. The presentation concluded with discussions on fish passage, habitat restoration and estimated cost.

Board of Directors members asked Mr. Townsend several questions on the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project and provided feedback.

- b. Solarize Skagit 2024: Ms. Wohleb, Mr. Whiting and Mr. Nelson of Skagit Valley Clean Energy Alliance gave a presentation for this discussion item. Presenters gave an overview of the 501 c(3), discussed what occurred via last year’s campaign and what is in store for 2024. Also presented was a return-on-investment example of rooftop solar and expected timeline for this year.

Board of Directors members asked Mr. Townsend several questions on the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project and provided feedback.

- 7. Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Murphy provided an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Skagit County. The consultants finished up the four focus groups with the business sector, which include: infrastructure; economic diversity and growth; small business needs and work force development. They are now in the process of setting up a meeting with a manufacturers group, then moving into proposals for actions and considerations by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy steering committee.
- 8. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Board of Directors members did not have anything to share for the roundtable and open topic discussion.
- 9. Next Meeting: The next meeting is May 15, 2024, with the meeting time to be determined, in person at the Burlington City Council Chambers and remote.
- 10. Adjourned: Commissioner Browning adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Information Items: Year to Date Actual vs. Budget – January through December 2023; Washington Inter-governmental Review Process Uniform Notifications Form; and Quarterly Financial Update.

Approved,

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County
Board of Directors Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Feb-24

No	Vendor Name/Description	Description	Vendor No	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
2024207	A-1 Shredding, Inc.	Professional Services	31010	26863	1/4/2024	\$44.00
2024208	Community Attibutes, Inc. (CAI) - CEDS	Professional Services	34251	3834	12/31/2023	\$4,839.94
2024209	Community Attibutes, Inc. (CAI)	Professional Services	34251	3832	12/31/2023	\$2,077.11
2024210	City of Mount Vernon (enc)	Utiliites	12360	1312024	1/31/2024	\$24.29
2024211	Green Valley Clean	Professional Services	31182	1021	1/31/2024	\$265.00
2024212	NECA	Rent	31094	March 2024 Rent	2/1/2024	\$3,200.00
2024213	Puget Sound Energy Suite100 (enc)	Utiliites	14036	2012024	2/1/2024	\$143.76
2024214	Puget Sound Energy Suite 101 (enc)	Utiliites	14036	212024	2/1/2024	\$68.69
2024215	Ricoh (enc)	Printing	27592	5068828279	1/26/2024	\$89.68
2024216	Skagit County Public Works	Professional Services	20644	20231201	12/31/2023	\$5,816.83
2024217	Skagit Publishing (enc)	Printing	13375	12445747	1/31/2024	\$144.70
2024218	WA State Auditor's Office (enc)	Professional Services	13294	L157729	11/8/2023	\$768.60
2024219	WA State Auditor's Office (enc)	Professional Services	13294	L158237	12/11/2023	\$7,378.56
2024220	WA State Auditor's Office (enc)	Professional Services	13294	L158911	1/10/2024	\$9,325.68
2024221	US Bank VISA - American Planning Association/MH (enc)	Dues & Subscriptions	25459	1032024	1/4/2024	\$688.00
2024222	US Bank VISA - Office_Depot/DC (enc)	Office Supplies	25459	1222024	1/22/2024	\$124.92
2024223	Waste Management (enc)	Utiliites	26387	0802581-0043-9	2/1/2024	\$55.03
2024224	Whatcom Council of Governments	Professional Services	23714	889	12/31/2023	\$1,262.08
	BATCH 149103 Total					\$36,316.87

2024225	Associataion of WA Cities (enc)	Employee Healthcare Benefits	A0657	54361	2/20/2024	\$13,042.36
	BATCH 149268 Total					\$13,042.36

Mar-24

No	Vendor Name/Description	Description	Vendor No	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
2024226	Community Attibutes, Inc. (CAI) - CEDS	Professional Services	34251	3854	1/31/2024	\$8,378.91
2024227	Community Attibutes, Inc. (CAI)	Professional Services	34251	3851	1/31/2024	\$3,997.90
2024228	City of Mount Vernon (enc)	Utilites	12360	2292024	2/29/2024	\$24.29
2024229	Green Valley Clean	Professional Services	31182	1041	2/29/2024	\$265.00
2024230	NECA	Rent	31094	April 2024 Rent	3/1/2024	\$3,200.00
2024231	Puget Sound Energy Suite100 (enc)	Utilites	14036	3012024	3/1/2024	\$120.96
2024232	Puget Sound Energy Suite 101 (enc)	Utilites	14036	312024	03/0/2024	\$45.88
2024233	Ricoh (enc)	Printing	27592	5069006017	2/25/2024	\$88.00
2024234	US Bank VISA - Office_Depot/DC (enc)	Office Supplies	25459	2122024	2/12/2024	\$34.35
2024235	US Bank VISA - Office_Depot/MH (enc)	Office Supplies	25459	2092024	2/9/2024	\$59.26
2024236	Waste Management (enc)	Utilites	26387	0807898-0043-2	3/1/2024	\$69.87
2024237	Whatcom Council of Governments	Professional Services	23714	911	1/31/2024	\$1,124.39
	BATCH 149450 Total					\$17,408.81

	Associataion of WA Cities (enc)	Employee Healthcare Benefits	A0657	54711	3/18/2024	\$13,042.36
2024238	BATCH 149623 Total					\$13,042.36

Apr-24

No	Vendor Name/Description	Description	Vendor No	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount
2024239	Community Attibutes, Inc. (CAI) - CEDS	Professional Services	34251	3864	2/29/2024	\$10,588.50
2024240	City of Mount Vernon (enc)	Utiilites	12360	3312024	3/31/2024	\$24.29
2024241	State of WA Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) (enc)	Fees	23312	1610913	3/29/2024	\$25.00
2024242	EDASC	Dues	11059	698-2024	5/31/2024	\$500.00
2024243	Green Valley Clean	Professional Services	31182	1062	3/31/2024	\$265.00
2024244	NECA	Rent	31094	May 2024 Rent	4/1/2024	\$3,200.00
2024245	Puget Sound Energy Suite100 (enc)	Utiilites	14036	422024	4/2/2024	\$124.18
2024246	Puget Sound Energy Suite 101 (enc)	Utiilites	14036	4022024	4/2/2024	\$48.72
2024247	Ricoh (enc)	Printing	27592	5069173085	3/25/2024	\$54.05
2024248	US Bank VISA - Office_Depot/DC (enc)	Office Supplies	25459	3192024	3/19/2024	\$92.97
2024249	US Bank VISA - AMPO/SR (enc)	Conferences & Training	25459	AMPO-GU-24EV4083	3/11/2024	\$665.00
2024250	Waste Management (enc)	Utiilites	26387	0810390-0043-5	4/1/2024	\$69.55
	Batch 149826 Total					\$15,657.26

2024251	WA Department of Labor & Industries	Payroll tax	22900	2024 Q1	3/31/2024	\$566.06
2024252	WA Employment Security Dept. (unemployment)	Payroll tax	20765	2024 Q1	3/31/2024	\$314.94
2024253	WA Employment Security Dept. (paid family & medical leave)	Payroll tax	32166	2024 Q1	3/31/2024	\$616.57
2024254	WA Employment Security Dept. (Cares long-term care)	Payroll tax	34514	2024 Q1	3/31/2024	\$183.98
	BATCH 149983 Total					\$1,681.55
2024255	Associataion of WA Cities (enc)	Employee Healthcare Benefits	A0657	55744	4/18/2024	\$13,042.36
	BATCH 149623 Total					\$13,042.36

DISCUSSION ITEM 5.A. – 2025 DUES

Document History

MEETING	DATE	TYPE OF ITEM	STAFF CONTACT	PHONE
Board of Directors	05/15/2024	Discussion	Kevin Murphy	360-416-7871

RECOMMENDED ACTION

NA

FISCAL IMPACT

NA

DISCUSSION

Each year SCOG establishes the annual dues in August to provide members information for upcoming budget development. In consultation with the Chair, staff is considering using the same method as recent dues setting, which is applying the Seattle Consumer Price Index to last years (2024) dues. The current CPI is at 4.3% as of the February 2024 report. The purpose of the May discussing is to provide SCOG staff direction in preparation for an August 2024 adoption on the 2025 dues.

The current 2024 dues are at \$164,869. Background and discussion on the history of SCOG dues can be found [here](#).



Memorandum

To: Kevin Murphy, Executive Director, Skagit Council of Governments
From: Rebecca Ballweg, Project Manager, Community Attributes
Date: May 7, 2024
Re: **SCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

The Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) is conducting a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Skagit County that is intended to guide and promote diverse, sustainable, and equitable economic development throughout the county. SCOG has commissioned Community Attributes (CAI) to support development of the CEDS.

Work completed to date (July 2023 – April 2024)

Community Engagement

CAI conducted several methods of engagement with key partners and community members. These activities included:

- Ten orientation interviews with public officials, business owners/operators, and economic development organizations.
- An online business survey available in two languages. A total of 87 responses were received with the survey open from October 2023 to January 2024.
- Four focus groups with businesses in Skagit County on key economic development topics including infrastructure, workforce development, economic diversification and growth, and small business support.

Landscape Assessment and Data Profile

The Landscape Assessment and Data Profile serves as the quantitative analysis that will ultimately inform the development of goals, strategies, and actions in the CEDS in conjunction with findings from engagement activities and stakeholder outreach. The assessment includes a review of existing plans and studies impacting economic development in Skagit County; a SWOT analysis outlining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for economic development in Skagit County; and a data-driven analysis of demographic and economic trends affecting the local and regional economy.

Project Governance

The CEDS development process has been governed by a **Steering Committee** that has overseen and advised on the entirety of the CEDS development process and reviewed drafts of the strategy.

The project also engaged a large, diverse **Community Stakeholder group** to provide input and feedback to the CEDS. The Community Stakeholder group serves the role of the CEDS Strategy Committee and will be referred to as such in the CEDS document in accordance with U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) guidance. The group members represent major interests in Skagit County to ensure that a multitude of viewpoints from communities across the county are considered and to take advantage of local skills and resources when developing CEDS strategies and actions. Stakeholder

group workshop activities occurred in December 2023 and April 2024, and feedback continues to be solicited after these workshops.

Next Steps (May – August 2024)

- **Community Stakeholder Feedback.** CAI will incorporate feedback from key stakeholders across the county to review the goals, strategies, actions, to ensure the plan aligns with the needs and perspectives of the community.
- **Steering Committee Meeting.** CAI will facilitate a meeting with the steering committee to review the final draft of CEDS goals, strategies, actions and evaluation framework.
- **Economic Development Administration review.** The CEDS will be submitted to the EDA to ensure compliance with agency guidelines for CEDS preparation and project funding.
- **SCOG Board Meeting.** Present the Final CEDS to the SCOG Board during their August meeting.

Initial CEDS Findings

At a high level, project activities have revealed the following structure and outcomes envisioned for the CEDS, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of economic development priorities and strategies within the community.

Economic Development Vision. Skagit County is a desirable destination to live, work, visit, and invest. Residents benefit from a diverse and resilient economy that supports living-wage jobs and economic prosperity for all.

Goals Five goals were developed that seek to enact the economic development vision of Skagit County and which frame the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Each Goal area corresponds to a set of strategies and actions that, together, comprise a roadmap to achieving the Goal.

- **Goal 1.** Ensure a qualified workforce that meets employers' needs well into the future. (*Workforce and talent development*)
- **Goal 2.** Foster a strong and diverse economy through growth in industry strengths and emerging opportunities. (*Growth and diversification*)
- **Goal 3.** Provide small businesses in Skagit with tools to start, stay, grow, adapt, and flourish. (*Equitable small business support*)
- **Goal 4.** Preserve and enhance Skagit's natural environment, quality of life, and appeal to businesses, residents, workers, and visitors. (*Livability & quality of life*)
- **Goal 5.** Strengthen critical infrastructure to enhance resiliency, expand connectivity, and promote private investment. (*Infrastructure and planning*)

Skagit Council of Governments
Year to Date Actual vs. Full Year Budget
January through March 2024

	<u>Jan - Mar 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Revenues			
333 · Federal Grants	\$ 113,552	\$ 937,575	12%
334 · State Grants	14,801	71,643	21%
337 · Local	23,400	116,000	20%
338.2 · Dues & Other Local	164,869	164,869	100%
361.11 · Investment Interest	7,065	-	100%
367 · Contributions&Donations Private	-	-	0%
369 · Non-Governmental & Misc. Income	-	-	0%
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 323,687</u>	<u>\$ 1,290,087</u>	<u>25%</u>
Expenses			
505 · Advertising / Legal Notices	\$ -	\$ 6,500	0%
510 · Conferences & Training	-	15,000	0%
515 · Computer & Software Expenses	-	8,900	0%
520 · Dues and Subscriptions	1,559	6,035	26%
525 · Equipment & Furniture Purchases	-	1,000	0%
532 · Fees	668	1,025	65%
535 · Insurance Expense	-	7,000	0%
538 · Meeting Expenses	-	450	0%
555 · Payroll Salaries and Wages	116,646	465,285	25%
556 · Payroll Taxes & Benefits	62,064	216,652	29%
557 · Printing	347	-	100%
560 · Professional Services	79,697	568,874	14%
565 · Rent Expense	9,600	38,400	25%
570 · Repairs and Maintenance	-	500	0%
575 · Supplies	219	2,400	9%
580 · Travel	28	10,000	0%
585 · Utilities	803	3,600	22%
595 · Other Expenses	11	-	100%
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 271,642</u>	<u>\$ 1,351,621</u>	<u>20%</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	<u><u>\$ 52,045</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (61,534)</u></u>	



Financial Position

For the Month Ended:	4/30/2023	5/31/2023	6/30/2023	7/31/2023	8/31/2023	9/30/2023	10/31/2023	11/30/2023	12/31/2023	1/31/2024	2/29/2024	3/31/2024
General Fund Balance	612,146	598,016	596,435	643,303	589,439	566,379	596,993	553,757	542,170	559,202	630,335	593,020
Accounts Receivable	103,681	103,983	102,475	49,217	93,494	125,000	83,071	102,977	100,609	212,550	116,354	149,360
Accounts Payable	(8,593)	(4,846)	(15,001)	(28,289)	(37,270)	(45,996)	(38,094)	(59,572)	(45,233)	(32,848)	(10,589)	(12,596)
Net Working Capital	707,234	697,153	683,909	664,231	645,663	645,383	641,970	597,162	597,546	738,904	736,100	729,784



About Skagit Council of Governments



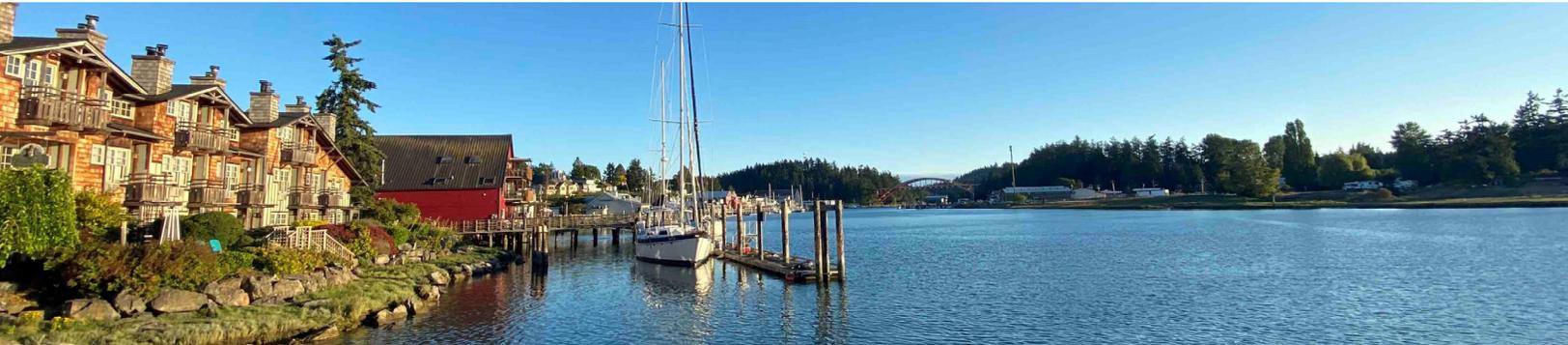
Skagit Council of Governments connects Skagit County’s leaders to build a stronger region. Since 1967, SCOG has existed as a voluntary organization of local governments, and a regional planning resource.

Today, SCOG is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the Skagit region. Additionally, SCOG coordinates administration of the Growth Management Act (GMA) in the Skagit region through its annual GMA work program.

By coordinating transportation decision making and policy development as well as GMA activities, SCOG engages its fifteen member governments, partners, stakeholders, and the community in developing long-term solutions for the region’s challenges.

Contents

Member Agencies	4
2023 in Transportation.....	5
2023 in Growth Management.....	7
Looking Forward to 2024.....	9
SCOG 2023 Operating Budget.....	10
2024 Budget.....	11



Member Agencies



County

Skagit County

State

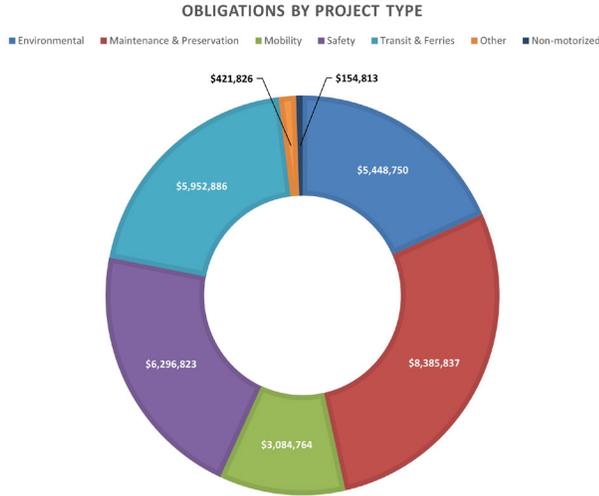
Washington State
Department of
Transportation

Transit

Skagit Transit

Special Districts

Skagit PUD #1



2023 in Transportation

\$29,745,698 in federal funds were obligated for transportation projects

\$2,432,119 in grant funds were returned to state and federal governments

\$3,353,647 in federal funds obligated by the Washington State Department of Transportation on projects within the region

In 2023, 12 Projects Obligated \$4,318,692 in Regional Funds:

Anacortes: Tommy Thompson Trail Trestle and Causeway Scoping, Ship Harbor Blvd and SR 20 Spur Intersection, R Avenue Improvements

Burlington: SR 20/Skagit St Signalization

Concrete: Secondary Access Road

5 • 2023 Annual Report

Mount Vernon: College Way SR 538 at I-5, Riverside Drive Improvements - 2

Sedro-Woolley: John Liner Road Arterial Improvements, John Liner Rd - Reed to Township Bike/Ped, SR 20/SR 9 - Township Intersection Improvements, SR 20/Cascade Trail West Extension Phase 2A

Skagit County: Josh Wilson Road - Phase 1

2023 in Transportation

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) and Carbon Reduction Program (CR) Project Selection

During the first half of 2023, SCOG selected eligible projects for award of STBG, TA and CR funds, as well as a contingency list of projects which may be programmed in order to help the region reach its Obligation Authority (OA) target.

In all, 12 projects were selected for a total of \$7,830,910 in funding, and 15 projects were selected for the contingency list from six regional project sponsors.

Title VI Plan Update

SCOG conducted a major update of the Title VI Plan, which had its last major update in 2020. The Title VI Plan is the basis of SCOG's nondiscrimination program. As part of the update process, SCOG reviewed changes to federal law and conducted a Title VI Focus group with community stakeholders to gain feedback on the plan.

Additionally, as part of the plan update, SCOG used 2020 Census and American Community Survey data to update the Skagit County Demographic Profile and conduct an Environmental Justice assessment of project selection decisions at SCOG from 2020 to 2023.

2023 in Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

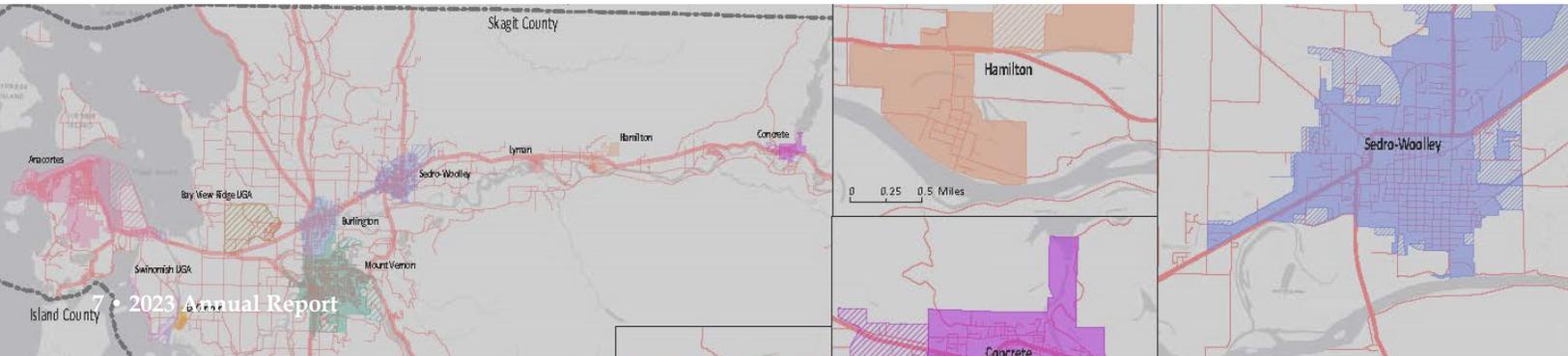
SCOG began work with a consultant to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a long-term, consensus-driven planning document that is intended to guide economic development throughout the Skagit region. Development of the CEDS involved major public outreach with stakeholders throughout the region, and is expected to be finished in Spring of 2024.

2023 in Growth Management

During 2023, Skagit Council of Governments continued to provide administrative support to the Growth Management Act Steering Committee (GMASC) and its Technical Advisory Committee (GMATAC).

Skagit County and its cities and towns must plan for anticipated population growth under the Washington state Growth Management Act (GMA).

The 2002 Framework Agreement, executed by Skagit County along with cities and towns, addresses the collaborative requirement for planning at the regional level through GMA, and establishes the GMASC as the regional planning organization for this process. The Steering Committee develops recommendations for Countywide Planning Policies, urban growth areas, and allocations of population and employment for use in local comprehensive planning.



2023 in Growth Management

Growth Monitoring Program

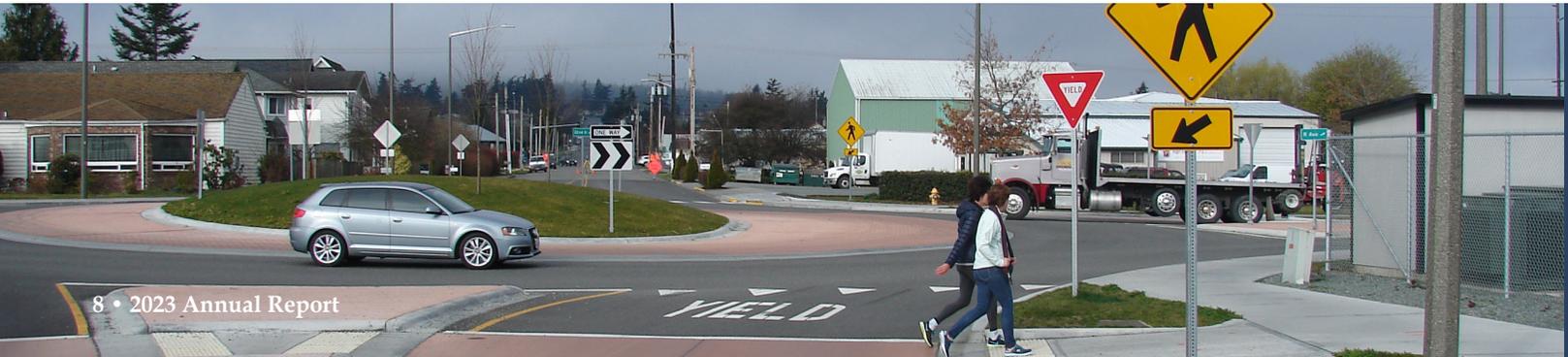
SCOG continued to build capacity for growth management countywide by conducting the analysis for the 2023 Growth Monitoring Report. This report built on the methodology developed over the past six years, and examined five years of trend data for population, housing, and employment.

Population, Employment and Housing Forecasts and Allocations

Staff worked with a consultant to develop regional forecasts for population, employment and housing growth in the Skagit region. These forecasts will be used for both the next regional transportation plan update and as an input in the next round of comprehensive plan updates within the region. Work on this project is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2024.

Ongoing Research and Support

SCOG continues to provide support for growth management across the region by conducting independent research on issues related to housing, population growth, migration, employment, and other regional trends.



Looking Forward to 2024

Transportation

Regional Transportation Plan Update

SCOG will begin work with a consultant on a major update to the long-range Regional Transportation Plan. The Plan forecasts revenues and expenditures for the next 25 years on the regional transportation system, and acts as a blueprint to guide investments in order to meet regional needs. The regional travel demand model will also be updated as part of this process. Work on the Plan is expected to continue into 2025.

Regional Safety Action Plan

SCOG will be working with a consultant to develop a regional safety action plan using federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funding. The Plan will help create a safer transportation system for the region, while also making jurisdictions eligible for implementation grant money to fund safety projects.

Regional Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan

SCOG will be working with a consultant to develop a regional resilience improvement plan. The Plan will consider natural hazard risk to the transportation system and create analysis methods for future use.

Growth Management

Growth Monitoring Program

SCOG will analyze population, employment, and housing data for the seventh annual Growth Monitoring Report.

Population and Employment Forecasts and Allocations

SCOG will complete work with a consultant to prepare regional forecasts of population and employment growth in the Skagit region. These forecasts will be used for the next major update to the Skagit 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. As part of the Growth Management Act Support Work Program SCOG will be using these products to develop GMA specific methods of county wide population and employment targets for future use in periodic updates to Comprehensive Plans.

Countywide Planning Policy Update

SCOG will review and update the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) to address recent legislative changes concerning housing and greenhouse gas emissions.

SCOG 2023 Operating Budget

Revenue by Funding Source

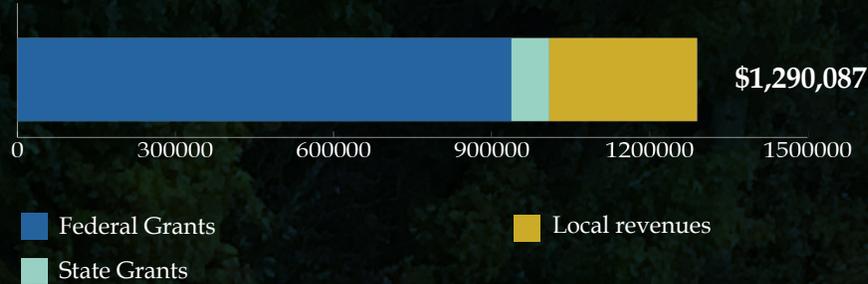


Expenses by Activity

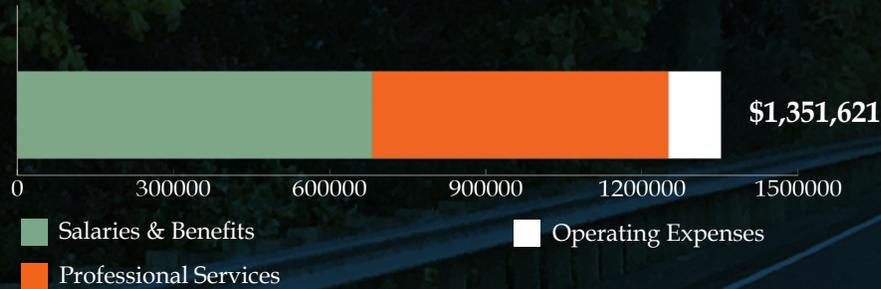


2024 Budget

Forecasted Revenue



Budgeted Expenses





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