

## SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2023  
Burlington City Council Chambers and GoToMeeting

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County, Vice-Chair; Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon; Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County; Todd Carlson and Chris Damitio, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner; Commissioner Mahlon Hull, Port of Skagit; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Julia Johnson, City of Sedro-Woolley; Representative Debra Lekanoff, 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District (arrived 9:11 a.m.); Commissioner Joe Lindquist, Skagit PUD; Mayor Matt Miller, City of Anacortes; Commissioner Jon Ronngren, Port of Anacortes; and Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington.

### 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 Madeline Pysher, Intern.

### OTHERS PRESENT

No one else attended the meeting.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Wesen called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 April 12-18, and that no comments were received during that timeframe.
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of March 15, 2023 Transportation Policy Board Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Browning moved to approve the March 15, 2023 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Meeting Minutes, and Mayor Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Action Items
  - a. April Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation for this agenda item. Skagit Council of Governments staff and the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the 2023-2028 Regional Transportation Program Amendments (RTIP): Burlington, SR 20/Skagit Street Signalization Project; and Skagit Transit, Purchase of Replacement Vanpool Vehicles. He concluded his presentation by

noting that the public comment period for the amendments was held March 30–April 12, and no public comments were received.

Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the March Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments as presented, and Mayor Sexton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. 2023 Regional Project Selection Evaluation Process: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation for this agenda item. He said that one of the tasks in SCOG’s unified planning work program for the current state fiscal year is to conduct a regional selection of projects that will receive federal funds from the following three sources: (1) Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; (2) Transportation Alternatives set-aside; and (3) Carbon Reduction Program. SCOG staff estimates that \$8.41 million will be available through this call for projects. Mr. Hamilton stated that the public comment period for this action item was held from March 17–29, and no public comments were received. SCOG staff and the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the 2023 Regional Project Selection Evaluation Process. Once approved, the call for projects will begin April 21, with applications received through May 12. Mr. Hamilton concluded his presentation by mentioning that this agenda item will come back to the Transportation Policy Board in July for final action.

Commissioner Browning moved to approve the 2023 Regional Project Selection Evaluation Process as presented. Mayor Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- c. 2023–2026 Title VI Plan: Mr. Johnson provided the staff presentation for this agenda item. He stated that the Title VI Plan is the main component of SCOG’s non-discrimination program. SCOG’s Title VI Plan must be updated every three years and applies to the entire transportation program. SCOG staff recommends the TPB release the updated Title VI Plan for a minimum two-week public comment period. The Title VI Plan will return to the TPB in May for final approval. Mr. Johnson then went over key updates to the 2023–2026 Title VI Plan.

Mayor Boudreau moved to release the 2023–2026 Title VI Plan for public comment. Mayor Sexton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## 5. Discussion Items

- a. Regional Performance Targets for Pavement, Bridges, Travel Time, and Freight Reliability: Mr. Johnson provided the staff presentation for this discussion item. Regional Performance Targets for Pavement, Bridges, Travel Time, and Freight Reliability contribute toward accomplishing statewide Transportation Performance Management targets for the National Highway System. The web map posted on the home page of SCOG’s website shows the known current conditions of pavement and bridges in Skagit County – rated at good, fair, or poor condition. Regional Performance Targets for Pavement, Bridges, Travel Time, and Freight Reliability need to be adopted by June 14, 2023 at the latest. SCOG staff recommends not setting quantifiable targets and instead agreeing to plan and program projects in the Skagit region that contribute towards the accomplishment of WSDOT’s statewide performance targets. WSDOT’s four-year performance management targets for pavement and bridge condition, highway system performance, freight reliability, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality were finalized on December 16, 2022. Mr. Johnson concluded his presentation by stating that this item will come back to the TPB for action at the May meeting.

Mayor Sexton voiced his concern that 2021 was the last time grading ratings for pavement were done. He stated that roads, such as State Route 20 through Burlington, have deteriorated since then and suggested more recent ratings would show worsened conditions from what appeared two years ago. Mr. Hamilton stated that the methodology for pavement grading ratings is set at the federal level and is used by state departments of transportation around the U.S. Mr. Murphy stated that despite WSDOT shifting over the last ten years to prioritize maintenance and preservation, the statewide budget has not increased its funding enough to address the gap in needed funding to maintain a state of good repair on state highways. Representative Lekanoff concurred that rural infrastructure is just as vital as urban infrastructure and should be prioritized for funding.

- b. Unified Planning Work Program for State Fiscal Year 2024: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation on this discussion item. He said that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is updated every year and follows the state fiscal year which begins July 1 each year and goes through June 30 of the next year. The state fiscal year 2024 UPWP begins July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024. SCOG staff met with the State Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transportation Administration on April 13 to discuss the UPWP. The UPWP needs to be approved by the end of June at the latest, and will be recommended as an action item at the May TPB meeting, along with recommendations to address comments received from federal and state partners from the April 13 meeting. Mr. Hamilton concluded his presentation by offering to answer any questions from the TPB on this agenda item.

The TPB had no questions for Mr. Hamilton on this agenda item.

6. Chair's Report: Chairman Tom Wooten, Transportation Policy Board Chair, did not attend the meeting.
7. Executive Director's Report: The Executive Director stated that House Bill 1181 recently passed stipulating that future TRP, GMA, and Comprehensive Plan updates will have to take climate change and resiliency into account. SCOG was not included in the budget or fiscal reports for the Bill. Representative Lekanoff stated they would be happy to host a round table discussion on this topic.
8. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Commissioner Janicki brought up the idea of work session focusing on new planning requirements that local governments must follow leading up to the 2025 comprehensive plan updates. Mayor Boudreau supported the idea and asked the city-town council members are invited to the work session as well. Mr. Murphy committed to organizing such a session.

Mr. Carlson highlighted that April 19 is national Go Orange Day to raise awareness about work zone safety. He also said that state legislation that Governor Inslee signed aimed at protecting people in work zones along highways with speed cameras.

Mayor Hayes provided some recent updates for La Conner, including challenges to local infrastructure.

Commissioner Wesen mentioned that grizzly bears are in the process of being reintroduced back into the Cascades. Representative Lenkanoff talked about challenges experienced as wolves were reintroduced into Eastern Washington.



9. Next Meeting: The next meeting is May 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Burlington City Council Chambers and GoToMeeting.

10. Adjourned: Commissioner Wesen adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Information Items: The Board was provided the April 6, 2023 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes; 2022 Annual Listing of Obligations; 2023 Obligation Authority Plan; Skagit Transit Letter of Support; and Monthly Financial Update.

Approved,

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Kevin Murphy, Executive Director  
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County  
Transportation Policy Board Vice-Chair  
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: \_\_\_\_\_