

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2023

Burlington City Council Chambers and GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation, Chair; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County (arrived 9:11 a.m.); Chris Damitio and Justin Resnick, Washington State Department of Transportation; Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Julia Johnson, City of Sedro-Woolley; Mayor Matt Miller, City of Anacortes; Mayor Marla Reed, Town of Concrete (arrived 9:09 a.m.); 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; and Grant Johnson, Associate Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT

No one else attended the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Wesen called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and chaired the entire meeting due to GoToMeeting technical difficulties experienced by Chairman Wooten.

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 July 12-18. During that timeframe, public comment was received from Crystle Stidham. Mr. Hamilton read the public comment into the record.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of June 21, 2023 Transportation Policy Board Meeting Minutes: Mayor Sexton moved to approve the June 21, 2023 Transportation Policy Board Meeting Minutes, and Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Action Items

- a. July Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation for this agenda item. He stated that one amendment request was received for the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) in August. The amendment request is for WSDOT's I-5/Tributaries to Friday, Lake & Chuckanut Creeks - Fish Pas-

sage project. This amendment revises a project already programmed in the RTIP. Total estimated project cost is reduced from \$72,409,688 to \$61,039,781, termini and total project length are revised, and state funding sources and amounts are adjusted for project phases.

Commissioner Wesen asked about the reason for the reduction in total estimated project cost. Mr. Damitio responded that WSDOT had received favorable bids from contractors that came in under expectations for the project.

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

- b. Regional Project Selection and Prioritized Contingency List: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation for this agenda item. He provided a summary of the process going back to December 2022 and reminded the Transportation Policy Board that federal funding is available for project selection through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) and Carbon Reduction Program (CR). Mr. Hamilton noted that Skagit Transit withdrew two of their applications from consideration following the June 21 meeting and provided several options that the Transportation Policy Board could consider, including whether or not to place these two projects on the prioritized contingency list. Mr. Hamilton also provided options for funding the Skagit 2050 Regional Transportation Plan through the project-selection process, in response from feedback received from the Transportation Policy Board at the June 21 meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Johnson to approve the regional project selection recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee, minus the two withdrawn Skagit Transit projects, with Mount Vernon's EV Vehicle Charging Facility – MVLC project selected to receive an additional \$275,000 STBG and \$275,000 CR funds from what was recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee, totaling \$275,000 in STBG funds and \$560,000 in CR funds for the project. Mayor Sexton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Browning to move the Skagit 2050 Regional Transportation Plan project from the prioritized contingency list and select it for funding with the regional project selection, using \$346,000 in STBG funds. Mayor Sexton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to place the two projects withdrawn by Skagit Transit as the highest-ranking projects on the prioritized contingency list, using the scores received via project selection to rank them #1 and #2, and to approve the prioritized contingency list. Mayor Sexton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The regional project selection is in the following table.

Applicant	Project	Phase ¹	Funding Type ²	Selection Amount
Skagit County	Cook Road/ I-5 Interchange Vicinity Improvements	PE	STBG	\$352,957
Skagit County	Cook Road/ I-5 Interchange Vicinity Improvements	CN	STBG	\$2,538,298
Sedro-Woolley	John Liner Road Arterial Improvements	PE	STBG	\$226,111
Sedro-Woolley	John Liner Road Arterial Improvements	RW	STBG	\$210,089
Sedro-Woolley	John Liner Road Arterial Improvements	CN	STBG	\$617,956
Skagit County	Peterson Road (Urban)	PE	STBG	\$618,903
Skagit County	Peterson Road (Urban)	RW	STBG	\$129,750
Skagit Transit	Bus Stop Amenities	PL/Other	TA	\$157,560
Mount Vernon	Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting - Phase 3	PE	TA	\$32,000
Mount Vernon	Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting - Phase 3	CN	TA	\$275,000
Sedro-Woolley	Jones/John Liner RR Undercrossing & Roadway Extension	PE	STBG	\$558,785
Mount Vernon	EV Bicycle Charging Facility - MVLC	CN	TA	\$144,500
Mount Vernon	EV Vehicle Charging Facility - MVLC	CN	CR STBG	\$560,000 \$275,000
Anacortes	Q Avenue Pedestrian Crossings	PE	CR	\$46,000
Anacortes	Q Avenue Pedestrian Crossings	CN	TA CR	\$62,000 \$334,000
Sedro-Woolley	SR 20/Cascade Trail West Extension Phase 2B Hospital Drive to Holtcamp Road	PE	TA	\$104,665
Sedro-Woolley	SR 20/Cascade Trail West Extension Phase 2B Hospital Drive to Holtcamp Road	RW	TA	\$16,868
Sedro-Woolley	SR 20/Cascade Trail West Extension Phase 2B Hospital Drive to Holtcamp Road	CN	TA	\$224,468
Skagit Council of Governments	Skagit 2050 Regional Transportation Plan	PL	STBG	\$346,000
			STBG Subtotal	\$5,873,849
			TA Subtotal	\$1,017,061
			CR Subtotal	\$940,000
			Grand Total	\$7,830,910

¹ "PL" is planning, "PE" is preliminary engineering, "RW" is right of way and "CN" is construction.

² "STBG" is federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, "TA" is federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside and "CR" is federal Carbon Reduction Program.

The prioritized contingency list is in the following table.

Rank	Applicant	Project	Phase ³	Funding Request
1	Skagit Transit	Construction of Ancillary Maintenance Buildings	CN	\$275,000
2	Skagit Transit	Construction Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure and Equipment Purchase	CN	\$275,000
3	Sedro-Woolley	Cook Road/South Trail Road Intersection Improvements	PE	\$311,189
4	Mount Vernon	Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting - Phase 2 ⁴	PE	\$18,000
4	Mount Vernon	Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting - Phase 2 ⁴	CN	\$159,000
5	Anacortes	12th Street and K Avenue Intersection Improvements ⁵	PE	\$224,000
5	Anacortes	17th Street and Q Avenue Intersection Improvements ⁵	PE	\$224,000
7	Mount Vernon	30th Street Improvements	RW	\$129,750
8	Mount Vernon	Riverside Drive Improvements - 1	RW	\$562,000
9	Mount Vernon	Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting - Phase 4 ⁴	PE	\$32,000
9	Mount Vernon	Kulshan Trail Safety Lighting - Phase 4 ⁴	CN	\$275,000
10	Mount Vernon	Riverside Drive Improvements - 2	RW	\$173,000
11	Skagit Council of Governments	Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture	PL	\$77,850
12	Sedro-Woolley	North Reed Street Overlay Project 1 SR 20 to John Liner Road	CN	\$324,375
13	Skagit Transit	Replacement Paratransit Coaches - Battery Electric	ALL	\$2,002,584
14	Skagit Transit	Skagit Transit's Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Replacement	CN	\$3,000,000
			Total	\$8,062,748

- c. Grant Application Authorization for Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation Program: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation on this agenda item. On April 21, 2023 the U.S. Department of Transportation published a notice of funding opportunity to solicit applications for Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) grants. PROTECT funds for federal fiscal year 2022 and 2023 will be awarded on a competitive basis through this grant opportunity, with an estimated \$45 million available for Planning Grants and \$803 million available to other types of grants. Metropolitan planning organizations, such as SCOG, are eligible to receive PROTECT grants for preparing a Resilience Improvement Plan. Mr. Hamilton concluded his presentation by stating that SCOG staff recommends the Transportation Policy Board authorize staff to apply for a PROTECT Planning Grant in order to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan.

³ "PL" is planning, "PE" is preliminary engineering, "RW" is right of way and "CN" is construction.

⁴ Project with multiple phases.

⁵ Project average ranking tied.

Mayor Sexton asked if a Resilience Improvement Plan funded by PROTECT funds would duplicate the hazard mitigation plans adopted by jurisdictions in Skagit County. Mr. Hamilton responded that a Resilience Improvement Plan funded under PROTECT needs to be consistent with these hazard mitigation plans, but would not duplicate these other planning efforts.

Mayor Sexton moved to authorize SCOG staff to apply for a PROTECT Planning Grant in order to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan. Mayor Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Chair's Report: there were no items for the Chair's Report.
6. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Murphy mentioned the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program 2023–2025 Awards provided as an Information Item for the meeting. Skagit region applicants were awarded over \$5.4 million during this award cycle. He pointed out how this is a good example of how regional planning informs the selection of projects in the Skagit region for funding.

Commissioner Janicki asked how the information on the \$5.4 million grant funding is shared with the community. Mr. Murphy said he is unsure how WSDOT disseminates information on these grant awards, and committed that SCOG staff will reach out to Skagit Valley Herald staff so they are aware this funding is coming to the Skagit region. Commissioner Wesen said it is important to celebrate success and let the community know how their tax dollars are being spent.

7. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Commissioner Wesen asked about traffic delays on Interstate 5 southbound in north Skagit County. Mr. Damitio mentioned there was some extensive pavement repair on Interstate 5 and the majority of repairs have been completed.

Mr. Damitio introduced Mr. Resnick as the new Planning & Engineering Services Manager in the WSDOT Northwest Region Mount Baker Area office.

Commissioner Wesen asked about WSDOT culvert replacements. Mr. Damitio said WSDOT is on track to meet the 2030 federal deadline for removing fish passage barriers.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting is August 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., in the Burlington City Council Chambers and GoToMeeting.
9. Adjourned: Commissioner Wesen adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Information Items: the Transportation Policy Board was provided the July 6, 2023 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes; WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program 2023–2025 Awards; 2023 Obligation Authority Plan; and Monthly Financial Update.



Approved,

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation
Transportation Policy Board Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

DRAFT