

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 4, 2018
SCOG Conference Room
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- City of Anacortes..... Steve Lange
- Port of Anacortes..... Jenkins Dossen
- Skagit County Forrest Jones
- Skagit Transit..... Brad Windler
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Keri Cleary
- Town of Concrete..... Cody Hart
- Town of La Conner Scott Thomas
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)..... Elizabeth Sjostrom

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton..... Senior Transportation Planner

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: 1:32 PM
2. Approval of September 6, 2018 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes: Mr. Jones moved approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Hart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. 2019–2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Mr. Hamilton presented the draft 2019–2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to the TAC. He said the 2019–2024 RTIP came to the TAC at the previous month’s meeting and this month’s meeting is an opportunity for a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board. Mr. Hamilton also noted that a public comment period on the 2019 –2024 RTIP ends on October 5th and the RTIP may be acted upon at the next Transportation Policy Board meeting, on October 17th.

Mr. Hart recommended approval of the 2019–2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Ms. Sjostrom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Regional Performance Targets: Mr. Hamilton described the new approach to performance-based planning that is being applied across the United States that affects metropolitan planning organizations, such as SCOG. This is in response to new federal rules resulting from the Moving Ahead for Progress Act in the 21st Century, which was signed into law in 2012. He noted that SCOG is now in the process of setting regional performance targets related to a variety of subject areas. Regional performance targets for transit asset management were set by SCOG in 2017 and safety targets early this year. These two target setting processes began the new performance-based approach at SCOG.

Mr. Hamilton said that regional performance targets for bridges, pavement, travel time and freight reliability need to be set by the October 27, 2018 Transportation Policy Board meeting to ensure SCOG meets the deadline for these targets. He then went over an inventory of current conditions for each of these performance target subject areas using the most recent available data. The inventory and targets only apply to the National Highway System in Skagit County.

Mr. Hamilton mentioned that Regional Performance Targets were discussed at last month's TAC meeting, and this month's TAC meeting this agenda item is available for a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board. Mr. Hamilton said that SCOG has the choice to: (1) to set quantifiable targets; or (2) agree to plan and program projects in the Skagit region to help meet WSDOT statewide targets. He mentioned that the staff recommendation is Option #2.

TAC members discussed ways to focus attention on the need for capacity improvements on Interstate 5. Mr. Murphy explained the work that was done related to this subject when SCOG prepared the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan in 2015 and 2016. Projects that expanded capacity on Interstate 5 in Skagit County did not fit into the fiscal constraint of the plan and reasonable expectations of what revenues would be available to add additional travel lanes through Mount Vernon and Burlington. TAC members expressed concern with perceived increases to traffic congestion and expected growth coming to Skagit County in future years.

Mr. Windler recommended that SCOG agree to plan and program projects to help WSDOT meet statewide targets. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lange. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Transportation Element Consistency Review Process: Mr. Hamilton said that SCOG, as the regional transportation planning organization in Skagit County, has a duty in Washington state law to review and certify transportation elements of local comprehensive plans. SCOG had been using a review and certification process approved by the Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization, but the SIRTPO dissolved several years ago. The review process has not been updated to reflect SCOG as the regional transportation planning organization. This agenda item is to update the review process so that SCOG is referenced in place of SIRTPO. Mr. Hamilton noted the staff recommendation is to approve these revisions as presented.

Ms. Sjostrom recommended approval of the Transportation Element Consistency Review Process to the Transportation Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cleary. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: TAC members gave updates on their current projects.
- 7. Next Meeting: November 1, 2018
- 8. Adjourned: 2:43 PM

Attest:

Mark Hamilton
Skagit Council of Governments

Date _____