

# SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2019  
SCOG Conference Room  
Mount Vernon, WA

## AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- City of Anacortes..... Steve Lange (arrived 1:34 p.m.)
- City of Burlington ..... Brian Dempsey
- City of Mount Vernon ..... Mike Love
- City of Sedro-Woolley ..... Mark Freiburger
- Town of La Conner ..... Scott Thomas
- Samish Indian Nation..... Nora Pederson
- Skagit County ..... Forrest Jones
- Skagit Transit..... Marcy Smith
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)..... John Shambaugh

## STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy ..... Executive Director
- Katie Bunge..... Assistant Planner
- Mark Hamilton..... Senior Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order: 1:30 p.m.
2. Approval of February 7, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes: Mr. Shambaugh moved to approve the February 7, 2019 meeting minutes, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Project Selection: Mr. Hamilton shared that this year, SCOG will be issuing a call for projects for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, as well as a one-time allocation of Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds. The projects selected for STBG funding will be included in the 6-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program, programmed mainly in years 2024 and 2025. STBG funds are allocated for urban areas, rural areas, and flexible funds available for any area. HIP funds are allocated for urban areas and rural areas, with no flexible funding availability. Unlike the STBG funds, HIP funds must be obligated by September 2021. Mr. Hamilton explained the timeline for this year’s round of STBG project selection. Funds are anticipated to be awarded by July/August 2019.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the application materials for this call for projects have not substantially changed from 2017. The Transportation Policy Board has advised that public vetting of projects should be done at the local level, and that the SCOG regional process is a supplement to the local public process.

Mr. Hamilton shared a number of proposed changes and discussion items related to the evaluation criteria for this round of project selection, including:

- TAC Priority criterion;
- Preservation and Maintenance criteria;
- Expansion of proposed activities for the contingency list;
- Set aside amount for non-roadway projects;
- Project presentations to the TAC; and
- Role of the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee (NMAC).

Members discussed each item. TAC members supported keeping the TAC Priority criterion and the current amount of 5 points possible for Preservation and Maintenance. Members supported changing the Preservation and Maintenance criteria to a more objective methodology utilizing definitions consistent with Federal Highway Administration guidance. The TAC supported expanding activities in the contingency list to include transit capital and preservation and maintenance projects, provided they are able to reasonably obligate in six weeks.

TAC members took a vote regarding keeping the current minimum 10% set aside of STBG funding for non-roadway projects, and the majority voted to continue the practice. Members supported the idea of project presentations to the TAC during the project evaluation period. The TAC supported allowing the NMAC a chance to review and make recommendations to the TAC before the June 6, 2019 TAC meeting.

TAC members discussed the current spatial analysis methodology for evaluating impact on Environmental Justice communities. Ms. Pederson noted that some projects which serve these communities may score lower if they are not located in low-income or minority census areas identified through the SCOG Demographic Profile. Mr. Hamilton committed to sending TAC members the demographic profile that SCOG uses for the spatial analysis of project applications.

Mr. Freiburger moved to recommend approval of the evaluation process for the STBG project selection to the Transportation Policy Board, and Mr. Love seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Technical Advisory Committee members gave updates on their current projects.
5. Next Meeting: April 4, 2019
6. Adjourned: 3:17 p.m.

Attest:

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Mark Hamilton, AICP  
Skagit Council of Governments

Date \_\_\_\_\_