

# SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
GoToMeeting Remote Meeting

## AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- City of Anacortes..... Tim Hohmann
- City of Mount Vernon ..... Bill Bullock
- Samish Indian Nation.....David Strich
- Skagit County ..... Forrest Jones
- Skagit PUD..... Chris Shaff
- Skagit Transit..... Brad Windler (arrived 1:36 p.m.)
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community ..... Keri Cleary
- Town of La Conner ..... Scott Thomas (arrived 1:37 p.m.)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)..... John Shambaugh,  
Mehrdad Moini

## STAFF PRESENT

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

### 1. Call to Order: 1:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

### 2. Approval of November 5, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Bullock moved approval of the November 5, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, and Mr. Windler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Non-Motorized Advisory Committee: Ms. Bunge updated the Committee on activities conducted by the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee (NMAC) over the past half year. In March and April, the NMAC canceled meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and transition to social distancing. At this time, the NMAC also postponed the update to the Skagit County Walking Trail Guide, which was anticipated to be updated in 2020. Both the walking trail guide and Skagit County Bicycle Map rely on private donations to fund printing, and it was uncertain whether previous donors would be able to contribute to a walking trail guide update in the spring. The NMAC resumed monthly meetings online, and continued work to distribute the existing walking trail guide and bicycle map. The NMAC also coordinated with WSDOT on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Count program, and expressed concerns regarding the count methodology and timing, which was scheduled for late October.

Ms. Bunge presented a proposed 2021 NMAC Work Program and membership list to the Committee. The Committee approves the work program and membership list each year at their December meeting. For 2021, no new work program items were proposed by the NMAC. The update to the Walking

Trail Guide, which had been planned for 2020, is included in the 2021 work program and anticipated to be completed next year. There are no new changes to the current membership roster. The NMAC recommended approval of the 2021 NMAC Work Program and membership list at their December 1, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Windler moved approval of the 2021 NMAC Work Program and 2021 Membership as presented, and Mr. Hohmann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Skagit 2045 Regional Transportation Plan: Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that the Regionally Significant Project criteria are being added to the plan to clarify current and future determinations of regional significance. The criteria have been changed slightly since last month's meeting. For intersection improvements, only multi-lane roundabouts are considered regionally significant through the revised criteria. This reflects the larger scale of multi-lane roundabouts and their ability to add significant capacity to the regional system. Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that a project's inclusion in the plan does not make it more or less competitive for funding through SCOG project selection processes. Other changes to the criteria include a clarification that only shared use paths and bike lanes on the regional non-motorized system would be regionally significant, and that all types of grade-separation projects would be regionally significant.

Mr. Windler asked why new transit routes and service increases would not be regionally significant under the criteria. Mr. Hamilton answered that the intent is to show distinct projects in the plan; new transit capital improvements that expand capacity would be regionally significant and included in the plan, such as fleet expansion projects. But service changes to individual routes would not be specific projects in the plan, nor would they be regionally significant. Mr. Hamilton clarified that this would not hinder Skagit Transit's ability to apply for grant funding.

Mr. Jones asked why single-lane roundabouts would not be considered regionally significant. Mr. Hamilton explained that SCOG staff want to distinguish intersection improvement projects by scale, and reiterated that projects can still be consistent with the plan without being listed as an identified project. Mr. Bullock suggested that another aspect to consider is single-lane roundabouts with additional dedicated slip lanes could be regionally significant.

Mr. Hamilton said that meetings with project sponsors for the plan had been completed. Last week, a list of projects was sent to many Committee members. Mr. Hamilton said that members should review their projects, including the estimated cost and estimated year of construction. Finally, Mr. Hamilton stated that the travel demand model base year is nearly complete, and he can schedule a meeting to review the model if anyone is interested.

5. 2021 Project Selection: Mr. Hamilton reminded the Committee that a project selection is scheduled for completion in June 2021. The Non-Motorized Advisory Committee would have a role in recommending criteria and selections for the non-motorized projects.
6. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Technical Advisory Committee members gave updates on their current projects. Mr. Hamilton noted that he was working on coordinating a project delivery meeting at the end of January. This meeting could include participants from the Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Whatcom county regions, and would relate to project obligations through WSDOT Local Programs. Mr. Moini suggested reaching out to WSDOT headquarters staff about a potential meeting.
7. Next Meeting: January 7, 2021



8. Adjourned: 2:46 p.m.

Attest:

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Kevin Murphy  
Skagit Council of Governments

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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