

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 20th, 2016
Burlington City Council Chambers
Burlington, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Voting Members: Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon, Chair; Todd Carlson, Washington State Department of Transportation; Mayor Joan Cromley, Town of Hamilton; Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes; Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Commissioner John Pope, Port of Anacortes; Sheriff Will Reichardt, Skagit County; Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County.

Non-Voting Members: Commissioner Jim Cook, Skagit Public Utility District.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Mark Hamilton, Transportation Planner; Gabe Philips, Transportation Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jay Drye, Washington State Department of Transportation.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT

There were fifteen individuals in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Mayor Boudreau called the meeting to order at 1:47 PM.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment: There were no public comments.
3. Chair's Report: There were no items to report.
4. Executive Director's Report: Kevin Murphy reported that as a result of the recent passage of the Fixing America's Transportation Act, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is still working on how to update the allocation of regionally managed funds. For the time being, WSDOT has directed SCOG to assume this year's allocation will be the same as last year's.
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the December 16th, 2015 Transportation Policy Board meeting minutes.
 - b. Approval of the 2016 Meeting Schedule.

Mayor Sexton moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Gere seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Action Item

- a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: Kevin Murphy reminded the Transportation Policy Board that the SCOG bylaws state that the current Vice-Chair becomes the Chair of the Transportation Policy Board the

following year upon the expiration of the former Chair's one-year term. Today's action would be to elect a new Vice-Chair for 2016 who would become Chair in 2017.

Commissioner Pope moved to nominate Mayor Gere as the Transportation Policy Board Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Janicki. The motion carried unanimously. Per the SCOG bylaws, the former Vice-Chair Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt became the new Chair of the Transportation Policy Board.

- b. 2016-2021 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Gabe Philips presented the following proposed amendments to the 2016-2021 Regional Transportation Improvement Program adding the following projects:
 - Sedro-Woolley
 - Jameson Arterial Extension
 - WSDOT
 - Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation
 - I-5/Lake Samish Vicinity – Storm Water Pipe Replacement

Mayor Boudreau moved to approve the Regional Transportation Improvement Program amendments as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mayor Sexton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. 2016 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment: Mr. Murphy explained that at the December 16th, 2015 SCOG Board of Directors meeting, the 2016 SCOG Budget was approved which included SCOG's work with housing in Skagit County. Some of the work can be billed to SCOG's transportation grant funds. However, an amendment to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program is necessary to utilize transportation grant funds for this effort.

Mayor Sexton moved to approve the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program amendment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Janicki. The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Release of Draft Regional Transportation Plan for Public Comment: Mark Hamilton gave an overview of the development of the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Hamilton said that SCOG forecasts transportation needs of around \$2.3 billion over the life of the plan with only \$2 billion in revenues to be available. Additional financial strategies are identified in the plan to address the shortfall. Mayor Boudreau said she appreciates the inclusion of the rail crossing projects identified in the Skagit Rail Crossing Study.

Mayor Boudreau moved to release the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan for public comment. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hayes. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion Item

- a. Skagit Rail Crossing Study: John Perlic and Erinn Walter, consultants hired to develop the Skagit Rail Crossing Study for SCOG, gave an overview of the study's findings. Ms. Walter identified the proposed priority rail crossings for grade-separation projects: College Way in Mount Vernon, Cook Road near Old Highway 99, and State Route 20 & Avon Avenue in Burlington. These locations are forecasted to be the most severely impacted by future roadway and railway traffic growth. Grade-separation projects can be quite expensive, ranging from \$30-\$40 million each.

Mayor Hayes asked the consultants what the total cost is for the study's recommended projects. Ms. Walter answered that they had not prepared a total sum for the presentation. Mayor Boudreau asked if the cost estimates included right-of-way acquisition for the projects. Ms. Walter said that the estimates do not account for right-of-way acquisition.

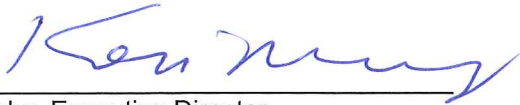
Mr. Murphy said the goal of the Skagit Rail Crossing Study was to inform the update to the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. The three proposed grade-separation projects have been included in

Skagit 2040. Additionally, smaller-scale projects such as Intelligent Transportation Systems solutions are also considered in Skagit 2040. By including the projects in the plan, they may be considered for funding set aside for rail crossings in the new federal transportation law.

Commissioner Wesen commented that technology solutions, such as optimized signal timing, work well along Burlington Boulevard and should be used wherever possible throughout the county as a lower cost alternative.

8. Transportation Policy Board Roundtable Discussion: There were no items to discuss.
9. Next Meeting: The next Transportation Policy Board meeting will be February 17th, 2016 at the Sedro-Woolley City Council Chambers at 1:30 PM.
10. The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.

Information Items: The Transportation Policy Board was provided a financial update and draft minutes from the January 7th, 2016 TAC meeting.



Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date

2-24-2016

Approved,



Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes
Transportation Policy Board Vice-Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

Date

2-17-16