

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 17th, 2016
Sedro-Woolley City Council Chambers
Sedro-Woolley, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Voting Members: Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Anacortes, Vice-Chair; Todd Carlson, Washington State Department of Transportation; Mayor Joan Cromley, Town of Hamilton; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Jason Miller, Town of Concrete; Commissioner John Pope, Port of Anacortes; Sheriff Will Reichardt, Skagit County; Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; Mayor Keith Wagoner, City of Sedro-Woolley; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County.

Non-Voting Members: Commissioner Jim Cook, Skagit Public Utility District; Joe Luciano, Major Employer Representative.

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Hamilton, Transportation Planner; Gabe Philips, Transportation Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jay Drye, Washington State Department of Transportation.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT

There were three individuals in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Mayor Gere called the meeting to order at 1:47 PM.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment: Randy Good commented that a rural component needs to be included in the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Update. Mr. Good said that the plan should include farm food security and food safety. He also proposed multiple policies for inclusion in the plan ([written comments are linked](#)).
3. Chair's Report: There were no items to report.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the January 20th, 2016 Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) Transportation Policy Board meeting minutes.

Commissioner Wesen moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Cromley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion Items
 - a. Public Comments Received on Draft Regional Transportation Plan: Mark Hamilton informed the Transportation Policy Board that after they approved of releasing the Plan, a public comment period for the draft regional transportation plan update was held from January 26th, 2016 through February 8th, 2016. Comments were received from five different commenters and included in the meeting packet. Staff intends to prepare a comment matrix which includes staff responses to the comments received as well as

proposed changes to the Draft Regional Transportation Plan for potential action at the March Transportation Policy Board meeting.

- b. Statewide Surface Transportation Program Funding Allocation: Gabe Philips said that the approval of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act will result in slightly increased amounts of federal transportation dollars allocated to Washington State. Currently, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) splits the federal funding it receives with metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) across the state. Sixty-six percent of the federal funds remain with WSDOT and thirty-four percent is allocated to the MPOs. There have been discussions amongst other MPOs about reassessing the way WSDOT splits the federal funds. The Puget Sound Regional Council has prepared a statement encouraging the Governor to reassess the way the funds are split. Mr. Philips requested that the Transportation Policy Board provide direction as to whether or not SCOG should take a similar approach.

Joe Luciano asked who makes the ultimate decision on how the funds are allocated. Mr. Philips replied that it is the Governor's office that makes the determination. Todd Carlson said that some states do not allocate any of the federal funds to MPOs while others allocate all of the federal funds to MPOs, so Washington is kind of in the middle. Mr. Luciano said he would like to see more funds spent on bridge maintenance. John Pope said it would be a good thing to get more than 34% of the Surface Transportation Program funds allocated to MPOs, but SCOG should be careful not to ask for an unrealistic amount. Mayor Sexton said that SCOG should advocate for more funding at the local level and Commissioner Wesen agreed. Mayor Gere directed staff to prepare a letter of support for reassessing the federal funding allocation split and also directed staff to request the WSDOT bridge maintenance engineer to give a presentation to the Transportation Policy Board at an upcoming meeting.

- c. Snohomish County Interstate 5 Lane Closures: Mr. Carlson explained that expansion joints on bridges are wearing out all over the state. WSDOT plans on repairing the expansion joints on Interstate 5 between Everett and Marysville over the next couple of months, beginning on February 26th. WSDOT has been coordinating with the tulip organizations in Skagit County on the expected lane closures.

Mr. Carlson also said that WSDOT had a successful open house in January on the Sharpe's Corner intersection improvements project. Another open house will be held on March 17th. A stakeholder group will be giving a recommendation to WSDOT on potential improvements.

- 6. Transportation Policy Board Roundtable Discussion: Mayor Wagoner requested that staff provide page numbers in the meeting packets to make it easier to follow the discussion at the meetings.
- 7. Next Meeting: The next Transportation Policy Board meeting will be March 16th, 2016 at the Burlington City Council Chambers at 1:30 PM.
- 8. Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.

Information Items: The Transportation Policy Board was provided a financial update and a draft of House Bill 2815.


Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 3-16-2016

Approved,

Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt
Transportation Policy Board Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 03/16/2016