

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 19th, 2017
Burlington City Council Chambers
Burlington, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Voting Members: Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County, Vice-Chair; Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon; Mayor Joan Cromley, Town of Hamilton (arrived at 1:42 PM); Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County; Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Jason Miller, Town of Concrete (arrived at 1:37 PM); Commissioner Steve Omdal, Port of Skagit; Councilwoman Erica Pickett, City of Anacortes; Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington; Mayor Keith Wagoner, City of Sedro-Woolley.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Pam Carlson, Finance Manager; Gabe Philips, Transportation Planner; Rose Howe, Intern.

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Warren, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Jason Beloso, WSDOT

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT

There were three individuals in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Wesen called the meeting to order at 1:29 PM.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment: [Carol Ehlers](#) discussed the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) report for the Sharpe's Corner Intersection. Ms. Ehlers said she responded to the SEPA information and was unconcerned about its findings about wetlands. Instead, Ms. Ehlers commented that she is worried about the water lines, cascade gas, and sewer lines that run through the site. Ms. Ehlers also noted how difficult it is to find the information necessary for the public to learn about the lines underlying the site. She suggested a "call when you design" procedure.
3. Chair's Report: Commissioner Wesen had nothing to report.
4. Executive Director's Report: Kevin Murphy reported he sent the a letter to Washington State Secretary of Transportation, Roger Millar, suggesting additional funding for the state's Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). Secretary Millar has agreed to work with RTPOs to increase funding during the next budget cycle. Mr. Murphy noted that RTPOs have not seen an increase in funding since 1991.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the June 21st, 2017 Transportation Policy Board meeting minutes

Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Action Items

- a. Approve July Amendment to the 2017-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Gabe Philips presented the following proposed amendment to the 2017-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program:

- Washington State Department of Transportation– Northwest Region
 - SR 20/I-5 to Collins Road – ADA Compliance

Mayor Sexton said he thought the estimated cost of the project seemed high for replacing Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps. Mr. Philips said he could not provide more information about the project. Noting that there were no representatives from WSDOT Northwest Region, asked if the amendment could be postponed. Mr. Philips said the Transportation Policy Board could postpone the decision until more information is available. Commissioner Janicki said she had a difficult time remembering all of the locations where curb ramp replacements would be necessary. Mayor Boudreau noted that when federal funds are utilized to repave a roadway, all curb ramps in the project area must be brought up to standard.

Mayor Wagoner moved to approve the July amendment to the 2017-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Mayor Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried, eight votes to one, with Mayor Sexton opposed.

- b. Adopt Revised 2017 Regional Performance Targets for Transit Asset Management: Kevin Murphy reported that at its last meeting the Transportation Policy Board adopted initial targets for transit asset management. Mr. Murphy noted that staff recommends revising the targets to include state ferry targets for the region, consistent with targets that WSDOT set for their ferry assets in the region.

Mayor Hayes moved to adopt the Revised 2017 Regional Performance Targets, and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item

- a. Washington Transportation Plan, Phase 2 and Freight System Plan: Richard Warren presented information on Phase 2 or the implementation of the Washington Transportation Plan. Mr. Warren described that, under the managing growth and congestion focus area, WSDOT is getting away from looking at level-of-service performance and instead looking at the movement of goods and people not cars. Mr. Warren also said that enhancing multimodal connections will involve examining route predictability, which influences commuters' behaviors and choices. He said aligning funding with multimodal goals will be critical as the state receives less revenue from the gas tax in the future. Mayor Boudreau asked how WSDOT is addressing different regions and their different needs. She was concerned with urban targets being placed on predominantly rural Skagit County. In reply, Mr. Warren stated WSDOT is not interested in a "one size fits all approach" and will be discussing targets with local metropolitan planning organizations across the state.

Next, WSDOT Rail Planning Manager Jason Beloso presented on WSDOT's Freight System Plan. Mr. Beloso said it is important to plan for freight not only to satisfy federal requirements but also because Washington's economy relies heavily on trade. Mr. Beloso also provided information about current transit freight issues and trends in Washington, summarized below:

- *Economic Vitality* – ports facing more competition, difficulties preserving industrial sites
- *Preservation* – emphasis on again infrastructure and maintaining waterway channels
- *Safety* – truck-related crashes increasing, parking shortage issues (success with implementing a brochure with map identifying safe parking locations for drivers around the state), and improvements to highway rail grade crossing
- *Mobility* – working on intermodal connections to inland ports as well as new models for urban goods movement
- *Environment* – examining climate impact vulnerabilities, emissions, and hazardous materials risks
- *Stewardship* – looking at system resilience (especially with increased number of landslides this year) and congestion caused by freight

Mr. Beloso expects the plan to be released for a public comment period in August, followed by the completion of the plan by December 2017. Mayor Boudreau said she would like to see more about freight rail planning, safety, and economic vitality. She asked how involved the state legislators are with the plan and its funding. Mr. Beloso replied legislators are very involved with the plan. Mr. Beloso plans to begin work on the next rail plan after the Freight System Plan is finalized.

- 8. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: There were no items to discuss during the roundtable discussion.

9. Next Meeting: The next Transportation Policy Board meeting will be August 16th, 2017 at the Burlington City Council Chambers at 1:30 PM.

10. Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM.

Information Items: The Transportation Policy Board was provided with a letter to Secretary Roger Millar regarding RTPO funding, Secretary Millar's response letter, a memo regarding the pictures in the Public Participation Plan, and a monthly financial update.



Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 8-16-2017

Approved,



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

Date 8-18-17