

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2023

Burlington City Council Chambers and Remote

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation, Chair; Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County, Vice-Chair; Chris Damitio, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon; Assessor Danny Hagen, Skagit County; Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of La Conner; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Julia Johnson, City of Sedro-Woolley; Commissioner Joe Lindquist, Skagit PUD; Mayor Matt Miller, City of Anacortes; Mayor Marla Reed, Town of Concrete; Commissioner Jon Ronngren, Port of Anacortes; and Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Burlington.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Debbie Carter, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board; Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner; Grant Johnson, Associate Planner; and Madeline Pysher, Intern.

OTHERS PRESENT

Four members of the public attended the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Written Public Comments: Mr. Hamilton stated that a public comment period for the meeting was held from September 13-19. During that timeframe no public comments were received.
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of August 16, 2023 Transportation Policy Board Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the August 16, 2023 Transportation Policy Board Meeting Minutes, and Mayor Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Action Items
 - a. September Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Mr. Hamilton provided the staff presentation for this agenda item. He stated that one Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendment request was received for September. This amendment would add Sedro-Woolley's John Liner Arterial Improvements project to the RTIP, with a total estimated project cost of \$2,518,677. A public comment period was held for the RTIP amendment from September 1-8, with no public comments received. This amendment was

recommended for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee, and SCOG staff concurs with the recommendation.

Commissioner Janicki asked if the John Liner Arterial Improvements project included signalization at the intersection of State Route 9. Mr. Hamilton responded that this project does not include a signal along State Route 9. However, there is another project which is adjacent to this project, at the intersection of State Route 9 and John Liner Road, that does include intersection improvements.

There was also one administrative modification to the RTIP: an increase in the total estimated project cost of the SR20/Skagit Signalization Project from \$1,921,250 to \$2,404,000 using local funds, and an increase in programmed amount for the construction phase. Administrative modifications do not require Transportation Policy Board approval and Mr. Hamilton said that this project revision is presented for information only, and will be submitted to WSDOT along with the RTIP amendment.

Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the September Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendment as presented, and Mayor Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Release of 2024–2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Public Comment: Mr. Hamilton provided an overview presentation of the 2024–2029 RTIP with a SCOG staff recommendation to release the document for public review and comment.

A motion was made by Mayor Johnson to release the 2024–2029 Regional Transportation Program for public comment. Mayor Sexton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Discussion Items

- a. 2024 Obligation Authority Plan: this discussion item was presented by Mr. Hamilton. He described why this plan is not included in the RTIP so it can be revised as needed throughout the year as SCOG works with project sponsors to try and meet the regional obligation authority target. Mr. Hamilton briefly described the procedures used to advance projects using gap strategies which are included in the RTIP and apply to this plan. He then went over the projects proposed to be included in the 2024 Obligation Authority Plan.
6. Chair’s Report: Chairman Wooten shared that the Samish Indian Nation were finishing work on the State Route 20 and Almida Vista Place project with the assistance of WSDOT staff.
 7. Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Murphy had nothing to report.
 8. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Commissioner Wesen mentioned that he will be conducting Mr. Murphy’s annual performance review soon, and asked that members of the Transportation Policy Board reach out with any comments on Mr. Murphy’s performance.

Commissioner Janicki mentioned that WSDOT staff recently presented on the drainage and restoration of a creek running between Hamilton and Lyman that was an excellent example of how to restore channelized creeks back to a healthy state allowing for improved fish passage.

Chairman Wooten mentioned that former Governor Christine Gregoire and a member of the Cascade Innovation Corridor will be at next month’s Transportation Policy Board meeting to talk about high-speed rail.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting is October 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Burlington City Council Chambers and remote.

10. Adjourned: Chairman Wooten adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Information Items: the Transportation Policy Board was provided the September 7, 2023 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes; 2023 Obligation Authority Plan; and Monthly Financial Update.

Approved,

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation
Transportation Policy Board Chair
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____