

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2024

Skagit Council of Governments Conference Room

315 South Third Street, Suite 100, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- City of Anacortes..... Steve Lange
- City of Mount Vernon Bill Bullock
- City of Sedro-Woolley Kyle Anderson
- Skagit County Tom Weller, Forrest Jones
- Skagit PUD.....Mark Semrau
- Swinomish Indian Tribal CommunityDebra Bray
- Town of La Conner Scott Thomas
- Washington State Department of Transportation John Shambaugh, David Strich

STAFF PRESENT

- Skagit Council of Governments Kevin Murphy, Mark Hamilton, Grant Johnson, Sarah Reuther

OTHERS PRESENT

No one else was present at the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. December 7, 2023 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: Mr. Bullock moved to approve the December 7, 2023 Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes, and Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. January Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Mr. Johnson presented the January Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendments agenda item. He stated that four RTIP amendments had been submitted for the month, and that there was one administrative modification that does not need Transportation Policy Board (TPB) approval, but that is being presented as information only. He explained that two amendments were submitted by Skagit County to add new projects to the RTIP. The Marine Drive/Rosario Road/Marine Wye Drive Intersection Improvements project has an estimated cost of \$2,609,000 and is eligible for 100% federal funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program. The Guemes Island Anacortes Ferry

Parking & Holding Lane Improvements project has an estimated cost of \$1,114,818 and will be using federal Ferry Boat Program (FBP) formula funds with a 20% local match. He stated that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) submitted two amendments that revise projects already programmed in the RTIP. The I-5/ Unnamed Tributaries to Milltown Creek - Fish Passage project has an estimated project cost increase from \$20,609,925 to \$22,168,153, and the state funding sources are being modified along with the addition of federal funds from the National Highway Performance Program. The I-5/ Martha Washington & Maddox Creeks - Fish Passage project has an estimated project cost increase from \$24,141,258 to \$31,549,700, and the state funding sources are being modified along with the addition of federal funds from the National Highway Performance Program. The administrative modification is for another WSDOT project, the SR 536/ Skagit River Bridge - Painting project, with a slight revision to the estimated project cost and revision to the funding source.

Mr. Shambaugh motioned to recommend approval of the January Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments to the Transportation Policy Board as presented. Mr. Weller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. 2024 Highway Safety Targets: Mr. Johnson presented the 2024 Highway Safety Targets agenda item for discussion. He explained that these targets come to the Transportation Policy Board every year and are related to federal performance measures. He stated that the TPB has two courses of action to choose from for safety targets: (1) set quantifiable targets for the region; or (2) agree to plan and program projects to assist with meeting statewide targets for highway safety. The TPB has always opted to agree to plan and program projects when provided these two options. Mr. Johnson then gave an overview of the safety targets, and displayed data both statewide and for the Skagit region. He stated that next month the 2024 Highway Safety Targets would be coming back to the Technical Advisory Committee for a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board.

Technical Advisory Committee members discussed the statewide and regional data, including trends in fatalities and serious injuries over time.

5. Coordination on State Highways for Comprehensive Plan Updates: Mr. Strich presented this agenda item. He gave a presentation on WSDOT coordination with local jurisdictions on the upcoming comprehensive plan updates. He explained that there have been many new legislative requirements added that apply to local comprehensive plans and gave a brief overview of Complete Streets concepts.
6. 2024 Obligation Authority Plan: Mr. Hamilton presented this agenda item. He stated that several projects within the region are expected to obligate federal funding this year. He explained that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has not yet been approved but that approval is expected within the next week. Once the STIP has been approved, projects on the 2024 Obligation Authority Plan can begin the obligation process. Mr. Hamilton then went over the list of projects expected to obligate, and Technical Advisory Committee members provided updates for projects in the 2024 Obligation Authority Plan. Mr. Hamilton emphasized the most projects need to have federal funding obligated by March 1, 2024, and that project sponsors unable to meet this date may request an extension to obligate funding later. Mr. Hamilton then mentioned that SCOG staff expects to receive the regional obligation authority target from WSDOT later in January for the current federal fiscal year, and should be able to share this information at the February Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

7. Roundtable and Open Topic Discussion: Technical Advisory Committee members provided project updates for their jurisdictions.
8. Next Meeting: February 1, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Mr. Hamilton mentioned he expects the February meeting will be remote and the March meeting is likely to be in person at the SCOG conference room.
9. Adjourned: 2:35 p.m.

Attest:

Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

DRAFT