



It matters how we get there

Meeting Summary

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Whatcom Council of Governments

CTAG Members

- Kathy Berg, Chair
Dave Pros, Vice Chair
Glen Hallman
Chris Hatch
Carole Macdonald
Patrick Pollock
Larry Wickkiser
A.J. Garcia
Carol Berry

Start: 4:30 pm
Stop: 6:30 pm

In Attendance:

Technical Advisors

- Ellen Barton
Gary Davis
John Hergesheimer
Jessica Lee
Maureen McCarthy
Chris Comeau

Members:

- Kathy Berg
Dave Pros
Carol Berry
Larry Wickkiser

Administrative:

- Gordon Rogers, WCOG
Mary Anderson, WCOG

Technical Advisory:

- Gary Davis
Chris Comeau

Not in Attendance:

Members:

- A.J. Garcia
Pat Pollock
Carole Macdonald

- Chris Hatch
Glen Hallman

Technical Advisory:

- Jessica Lee
John Hergesheimer
Maureen McCarthy

Administrative Support

- Mary Anderson
Gordon Rogers

I. Member Time

G. Rogers: We may change our meeting schedule to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

L. Wickkiser: 2008 Airporter volume was up 10% over 2007, especially in second and third quarter, somewhat due to high fuel prices. In November and December the bad weather was good for our business.

2009 Airporter was up 4% in January, mostly because of weather. February was down 4%, YTD we are up 5%. The Airporter is usually down the first quarter, so no big concerns yet, but we count on good increases for the rest of the year to balance. We will watch expenses before we raise fares, cut wages or layoff workers. The 2008 Charter business was up by 8% in revenue and volume for the year. Slow right now as usual, same expectations for balance of year, we'll wait and see. We are researching and identifying contract opportunities with military and government charter bus services.

The biggest thing going right now is the potential with Eric Leonhardt of WWU, Vehicle Research Institute, using methane from Vander Hacht dairy farm in Lynden. The goal is to produce up to 100K gallons per year. It is cheaper to sell the methane to transportation infrastructure than to sell to electric grid. Eric is looking at 3 of our vehicles as possible conversions and is looking for

grants to help pay for the conversions and operations. There is a huge national potential with contracts, many government contracts are asking for alternative fuel.

C. Comeau: Tonight we are giving a transportation report on annual concurrency to the planning commission. New methodology takes into account all modes of transportation, not just automobiles. We need to make sure their implemented. We are getting ready for the 6 year TIP.

K. Berg: County considered pedestrian friendly streets. My friend and I went to sub divisions in Birch Bay, the streets are clogged with parked cars, everyone has garages. In County there is no public transportation, it sounds good but won't work.

C. Comeau: There needs to be more density to support transit.

K. Berg: There is nothing to walk to, no stores.

C. Comeau: Make sure bike/ped connections are completed. Room for progress at GP site, 20 years out. The Marine Trades Center is set to open next Fall.

C. Berry: BP Safety Committee starting again, focus group with students.

G. Davis: EIS will partly be transportation.

D. Pros: When impact fees?

G. Davis: Don't know, depends on compliance, hope less than 1 year. Right now putting together comp plan amendments, working with FD 21, don't know if it will make it in time for this year, due in April.

G. Rogers: WCOG models, TTAC, consultant at meeting, special meeting for review.

### **III. Transit Trip Planner**

M. Miller: We have a new website, the Puget Sound Trip Planner, the address is: [www.northsoundconnections.com](http://www.northsoundconnections.com), please spend some time on it, trying out a few different trips and send your comments to [Melissa@wcog.org](mailto:Melissa@wcog.org) by March 27<sup>th</sup>.

There are no prices listed now, it's just a prototype. It gives the links to the transit sites, so one can go there and find the prices.

C. Berry: We do this all the time for WWU students and parents. We have a PT trip planner who's helping students.

## **II. Report on GMCC progress- WC Panning**

G. Davis: GMCC update - 2031 project, rural element update, review urban growth area, UGA due 6/30/09, we asked for an extension. What County growth number to use, how to disperse through County, have representatives from all cities.

More public meetings, Birch Bay, Bellingham Library and Meridian H.S.

All material is on our website.

Rural element, just had public meeting and notified property owners affected, too dense to be considered rural, 20,000 properties. Had 4 meetings over 2 days; 300-400 people showed up, good responses. Planning commission on 4/16 and 4/30, public meetings.

The GMA designating LAMIRD recognize what was there, put line around it, can't redevelop. The County could de zone, non conforming use.

D. Pros: In Snohomish County there are a lot of lawsuits relating to LAMIRDs, calling the area rural would eliminate that.

G. Davis: LAMIRDS is rural centers, hub of activity; services may make sense to infill.

K. Berg: Are there any existing LAMIRDS?

G. Davis: Why we're out of compliance, can't make it bigger, they aren't hard and fast boundaries.

Is the Lummi Nation a LAMIRD?

NO

E.I.S. on UGA, comparing scenarios with a lot of growth, not a lot of growth, etc. There are 5 alternatives.

#### **IV. Meeting Schedule**

G. Rogers: Would like to change the meeting schedule to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

#### **V. Economic Stimulus**

G. Rogers: The stimulus package is \$819 Billion, originally we thought we'd get \$20 million in Whatcom County, there was a call for projects, asked for those that were shovel ready, it was about creating jobs. It has been difficult to negotiate through this. We had to submit projects with no criteria, things continued to change; mid December - 2 weeks ago.

Everything needs to be on the TIP, unclear if it had to be on it or just able to get on it. Left it up to jurisdictions to define, moving dirt, going to ad.

Through many meetings the policy board and TTAC ended up in agreement on a list, the total we are getting is about \$4.5 million, for 6 projects. The Policy

Board Chairman J. Louws asked jurisdictions to provide some match funding to make the money go further. The smaller jurisdictions were exempt from the match.

Bellingham has been holding out for National Competition grants, we still haven't gotten any info about it.

The panel, watchdogs, make sure the projects start on time.

Recovery.org

Bellingham has a scalable project as a back-up.

This is intended to create jobs or keep jobs, 4 or 5 cycles of economic stimulus' in the past. The State will figure out how many jobs will be created.

C. Comeau: Gordon, I'd like to thank-you for your guidance through out the process.

L. Wickkiser: What States are backing out?

G. Rogers: I'm not sure; All I've heard are reports on NPR.

#### **VI. WTA update**

Canceled - due to a WTA public hearing tonight

#### **VII. Freight Report**

Postponed due to time

#### **VIII. Adjourn**