

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION
POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
February 25, 2009

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Jack Louws, Tom Jones, Gary Jensen, Pete Kremen, Dan Pike, Bonnie Onyon, Barbara Ryan, Steve Swan, Henry Cagey, Louise Bjornson, Scott Walker, Bob Bromley

GUESTS: Kirk Vinnish, Candace Wilson, Jared Paben

STAFF: Gordon Rogers, Ron Cubellis, Leslye O'Shaughnessy

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C.1 Federal Infrastructure Economic Stimulus List

Louws reported that Whatcom County is slated to receive \$4.388 million in infrastructure funds along with \$128,000 in enhancement funds for a total of \$4.517 million. This figure is close to a formula using population as the base.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) met this morning and has put forward a project list they are recommending the Board approve for submission for funding. The list of projects recommended by TTAC was distributed.

The list of projects shows the requested amount of \$10.955 million, the adjusted amount as recommended by TTAC for projects is \$4.517 million. Jurisdictions will provide a match for their projects other than on two projects. These projects are the Lummi Nation Pedestrian Bridge and the Sumas Bob Mitchell Avenue projects.

The clock starts ticking when the Governor signs the list of projects, which will be approximately March 10th; we have 120 days from that date. One of the requirements is that the projects are on federally functional classified roads. Two projects are not - Sumas, Bob Mitchell Avenue project and Blaine, Boblett Street project.

MOTION: Pike moved, Kremen seconded, to approve the list as recommended by TTAC.

Comments:

The State will assume that the projects submitted fit the criteria. There will be a panel at the State level that will review the projects to decide if the projects are ready to go. If they think the project isn't ready they will drop down to the next project on the list. They will contact the individual jurisdiction if they have any questions about a project. The Bellingham, Bakerview & Hannegan/Woburn project is the next in line on the list to be funded if a project drops off.

Ed Conyers of WSDOT NW Region (Shoreline office) has stated that he would be willing to start the functional classification process immediately upon receiving an email from the jurisdiction needing this.

Ryan noted that WTA's project previously on the list was removed and WTA is applying for other funds.

Cubellis reported that Everson's project on the list was not funded. Rogers stated that this project was for \$35,000 for chip seal projects. Rowson had previously

stated that Everson was relying on Whatcom County for this work. Whatcom County hasn't agreed yet to do this but agree to have the funding included in Whatcom County's portion and if they will not be doing the project they would give the money to Everson.

MOTION PASSED

D. OTHER BUSINESS

Crawford asked about the status of the Iron Gate and Bakerview Road projects. Pike thought that the work is slated for this summer.

Crawford asked if WTA participates in road repair on Bakerview. Pike stated that they do not. It has been found that the buses do not contribute significantly to the degradation of the road.

Cagey asked if a press release is going to be submitted to the Herald and recommended that staff submit an official one. It was noted that a reporter from the herald was in attendance at the meeting. Staff was directed to submit a formal press release.

As stated earlier, the Blaine and Sumas projects are on roads that have not received federal functional classification on their stimulus project roads. They will be applying for classification. The Board was asked to approve the WCOG sending a letter of support for Blaine and Sumas to receive federal functional classification on Boblett Street and Bob Mitchell Avenue.

MOTION: Pike moved, Jones seconded, to approve WCOG submitting a letter of support for anyone needing it to receive federal functional classification for the roads on the stimulus projects list.

MOTION PASSED

E. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Jack Louws
Chair

Gordon Rogers
Deputy Director

