

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION
POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2010

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Bob Bromley, Sam Crawford,
Tom Jones, Gary Jensen,
Andy Rowilson, Barry
Buchanan, Bonnie Onyon,
Dan Pike, Todd Carlson,
Scott Walker, Jack Weiss,
Cliff Cultee (alternate for
Henry Cagey), Scott
Korthuis

GUESTS: Kris Lytton, Kirk Vinnish

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm
and introductions were made.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

C. MINUTES

MOTION: Pike moved, Jensen seconded, to
approve the minutes from October 14, 2009.
MOTION PASSED (Weiss & Buchanan Abstained)

MOTION: Rowilson moved, Jones seconded,
to approve the minutes from December 16,
2009.
MOTION PASSED (Weiss & Buchanan Abstained)

D. OLD BUSINESS

D.1 Jobs Bill Project List

Rogers reported that this is the second iteration of the Recovery Act and is called the Jobs For Main Street Bill (House version) or HIRE Bill (Senate version) and hasn't been reconciled yet. WSDOT has told us to use \$4.388 million as the budget amount for the project list. From the time of reconciliation and the President signs the bill we have 90 days to come to a contract with whoever is going to do the projects.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) developed and prioritized the list of projects that is being recommended for approval. The list is in a two-tier array as required by WSDOT. The reason for the tier 2 projects is to have small, ready to go projects available to receive should funds become available through re-distribution. The number one Tier 2 project is a scalable project so that it could be done in sections.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. PUBLIC HEARING

E.1 2010 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #1

Cubellis stated that 2010 TIP Amendment #1 is necessary to include the following projects in the TIP and he distributed an updated list which added two projects:

#1: The City of Bellingham received High Speed Rail federal funding for their waterfront bridge reconstruction and railroad relocation projects.

#2: WSDOT is updating the funding of their SR548-Terrell Creek fish passage project.

#3-#10: WSDOT is allocating the remaining and new Coordinated Border Infrastructure funds (subject to State Legislative approval)

#11-#19: The projects selected for the proposed JOBS for Main Street federal funding (subject to passage of a federal act authorizing and appropriating the funds)

#20: WSDOT roadside safety improvements at I-5 mileposts 260.13 & 260.52

#21: Upgrade of bi-national border data warehouse administered by WCOG. System modification to integrate with Canada's BIFA system.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 4:04

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE RECEIVED

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 4:05

MOTION: Pike moved, Jensen seconded, to approve amendment #1 to the Whatcom Council of Governments' 2010 Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION PASSED

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Mt. Baker Corridor Management Plan Amendment

In 1996 WCOG completed a corridor management plan for the Mt. Baker Highway. This was funded from a federal program called National Scenic Byways. In the plan there are a number of improvements identified. Several of the projects have been completed.

There is a call for projects under the National Scenic Byways program and several citizens would like to apply for funds to develop a trail to connect the Glacier community with the Snow Water condo community. Staff is

asking the plan be amended to include language in Chapter 5 of the Plan as follows:

"The Glacier Community Trail is a community foot and bicycle trail that will provide a safe and accessible non-motorized pathway connecting the Mt Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest with the Glacier Community. It is located between mile 33 and mile 35 of SR 542. The trail will connect the community and offer healthy transportation alternatives for residents, visitors, and travelers."

MOTION: Weiss moved, Rowlson seconded, to approve amending the Mt. Baker Corridor Management Plan as requested.

Discussion: Crawford asked if County Parks has been involved in this and if it has been included in the comprehensive plan.

Rogers stated that the Parks Department has been consulted and it has not been included in the comprehensive plan as far as he knows. The property is not the County's but will meet up with County property and will become part of the Bay-to-Baker Trail.

There are a lot of unanswered questions about the project itself at this time but in order to move forward with looking for funding the Plan needs to be amended to include this language.

MOTION PASSED

F.2 State Fiscal Year 2011 Unified Planning Work Program Process

Rogers reported that the UPWP is the WCOG federal and state work program for the state fiscal year.

Traditionally the first draft is not given to board members until all comments have been received from

Federal Highways Administration, Federal Transit Administration and WSDOT. After all federal and state comments have been incorporated the board will receive a copy for review and adoption. This is scheduled to be adopted at the May 12, Policy Board meeting.

G. REPORTS

Transportation Plan Glossary: Staff is working on updating the Whatcom Transportation Plan. The Plan is scheduled to be updated and approved by 2012. One of the appendices of the Plan is a glossary. The draft glossary was sent to board members today and the final will be distributed at the Board Retreat in May.

Olympia Update: There are currently three budgets in Olympia. The one the legislature is struggling over is the general budget. It has a \$2.8 billion gap between now and the end of July 2011. There is a House version and Senate version and the Governor's version is closer to the House version. They are going into overtime to resolve this. The capital budget won't be in until the general budget is done. The transportation budget is complete and is increased \$1 billion over last year. This is because of the \$590 million in stimulus funds coming into the state for high speed rail and \$300 million left over from various state projects. WCOG has requested \$500,000 for bridge funding for the IMTC project. We ended up getting the funds for this as well as Farmhouse project for a Diesel Motorized Unit (DMU) project.

Senator Ranker has been elected to be president of some commission of Border States at the federal level. He is taking the IMTC model back to DC with him and holding it up as how to make commissions work.

Retreat: The Full Council retreat will be held on May 5, 2010, at Fox Hall. Miller is meeting with board members individually to discuss what they would like to have as topics at the retreat.

WSDOT: Carlson reported that WSDOT has \$13 million of construction projects on I-5 that are about to go to ad. There will be about four different ramp projects that come under the safety provision in the Interstate Master Plan. Carlson will be meeting with the York Neighborhood Committee this evening to discuss a sound barrier on I-5.

H. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Robert Bromley
Chair

Jim Miller
Executive Director