

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION
POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
May 13, 2009

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Bob Bromley, Todd Carlson,
Steve Swan, Bonnie Onyon,
Andy Rowlson, Sam Crawford,
Gary Jensen, Dan Pike,
Steve Swan, Pete Kremen

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. MINUTES

MOTION: Pike moved, Jensen seconded, to
approve the minutes from February 11, 2009
and February 25, 2009.

MOTION PASSED

Crawford reported that the work on
Bakerview Road has been completed ahead of
schedule.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 2007-2009 UPWP Amendment #3

This amendment is a correction to the budget for the existing work program and happens every year. Staff uses an estimated number when preparing the program and at the end of the state fiscal year we get the corrected numbers and use those for the correction.

MOTION: Crawford moved, Bjornson seconded, to approve amendment #3 to the 2007-09 Unified Planning Work Program.

MOTION PASSED

D.2 2009-2010 UPWP

This document is the WCOG work program for the time period of July 2009 - June 2010. WCOG staff met with WSDOT staff to review the document in early April. WSDOT sent their comment to WCOG in a memo which was distributed to the Board at the meeting. The comments were in two sections - suggestions and required actions. Rogers incorporated some of the suggestions and all of the actions.

Rowlson asked if the WSDOT provided transportation goals on page 3 of the document are in this order typically or if they have changed. Rogers responded that over the years as funds have decreased preservation has been high on the list. That is certainly true now and these goals are provided by WSDOT in this order. Carlson stated that these goals are legislated and in terms of funding the first priority is to take care of the system.

Carlson reported that Whatcom County did receive ARRA funding for center line rumble strips and cable barriers along parts of I-5. These are both safety, low-cost jobs.

MOTION: Pike moved, Kremen seconded, to approve the WCOG 2009-2010 UPWP.

MOTION PASSED

E. OLD BUSINESS

E.1 Stimulus Funds

Lynden has lost some of the funds for their project. If a project bid comes in more than 10% under the estimated project cost you have to relinquish the funds. Staff is not sure if these funds will be kept in the County. WCOG staff has contacted the public works departments of each jurisdiction and let them know of this issue. No other jurisdiction has gone to bid on their project.

Miller wrote a letter to Kathleen Davis, WSDOT Planning Director, asking for an appeal of the Lynden decision. Ms. Davis responded that the request is denied.

Statewide there is a separate pool of approximately \$8 million in projects. Bellingham has a project on that list. WSDOT has sent a memo out stating they will try to get the funds back to the County that it was taken from.

F. REPORTS

F.1 Authorization the Federal Highways Act

The House had anticipated that they would have a Bill on the table and possibly take some action before their break in August. They have some documentation but it's not complete and they won't make their deadline. We will see the sunset of the current Act the end of September 2009.

There are over 100 programs in the current Act and they want to get that number down to 10. Things like border programs will be gone. Washington State received \$43 million last year and Whatcom County received approximately \$39 million for SR543, Guide Meridian, Border Crossing ITS, and SR9. They may keep some of the language for the border program in the Act but it's not certain.

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G. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Robert Bromley
Vice-Chair

Jim Miller
Executive Director