

WHATCOM TRANSPORTATION  
POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES  
JULY 13, 2011

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Bob Bromley, Tom Jones,  
Gary Jensen, Bonnie Onyon,  
Scott Korthuis, Sam  
Crawford, Jack Weiss, Pete  
Kremen, Todd Carlson, Dan  
Pike, Andy Rowlson

GUESTS: Pete Lagerwey, Cynthia Hoyle, Kathy  
Berg, Dick Little

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm  
and introductions were made.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Crawford reported that the Transportation  
Improvement Board (TIB) has funds  
available for projects that will be ready  
for bid by March 2012. The amount  
available statewide is approximately \$50  
million. Rogers will contact TIB and find  
out the status of the funds and then will  
send an announcement to all public works  
directors.

C. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Korthuis moved, Jensen seconded,  
to approve the minutes from May 11, 2011.

**MOTION PASSED**

D. PRESENTATION

D.1 Complete Streets

Kathy Berg, Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) Chair, gave a brief introduction of multi-modal transportation planning and the "Complete Streets" concept.

Pete Lagerwey presented the Complete Streets techniques that are applicable for more rural and small city areas like Whatcom County. He stressed that a complete street is not the same in every area. A complete street is safe, comfortable, and convenient for all users - pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

E. NEW BUSINESS

E.1 2012 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

This amendment will:

1. Add multi-year funding for future operation of the International Mobility and Trade Corridor project from federal sources
2. Carry over approximately \$50,000 IMTC funds from this year
3. Carry over approximately \$12,000 FHWA Planning funds from this year

**MOTION:** Kremen moved, Crawford seconded, to approve the requested 2012 Unified Planning Work Program amendment adding additional and carry-over IMTC funding and carrying over \$12,000 of FHWA Planning funds.

**MOTION PASSED**

E.2 Regional Transportation System

Rogers reminded the Board that we are beginning the process of updating the Whatcom Transportation Plan and the regional system is part of that plan. Over the past year the Transportation Technical Advisory

Committee (TTAC) has been working on reviewing and identifying those road and highway segments throughout the County that are of regional significance. TTAC is recommending approval of the system as presented.

Each year we get Surface Transportation Regional Program funds allocated to us and go through a process to identify projects for funding. This regionally significant system is used to define threshold criteria for projects funded with that money.

**MOTION:** Korthuis moved, Pike seconded, to approve the regional transportation system as recommended by TTAC.

**MOTION PASSED**

### E.3 Tiger III

Rogers reported that there is a third iteration of the "Tiger" program. This is a discretionary grant program. The announcement was sent to all public works departments on July 5<sup>th</sup>. There are a series of deadlines: July 18 comments on the criteria are due; pre-applications system is open on August 22; deadline for pre-applications is October 3; application system deadline is October 4; final applications due October 31.

There is \$527 million available nationally. Some of the funds will be set aside for some sub-programs and USDOT for administration of the program. Previous funded projects were generally multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional or otherwise challenging to fund under existing programs. The number one criteria is that projects will be selected based on their ability to contribute to the long-term economic competitiveness to the Nation. The USDOT will focus on projects that will quickly create and preserve jobs. Projects must be obligated by September 30, 2013 and have a 20 percent non-federal match.

F. OLD BUSINESS

F.1 Discretionary Program

Rogers reported on the projects submitted for the discretionary program funds that were submitted to the State. The following projects were submitted: City of Blaine, exit 274 design work; Welcome Center project; Lummi, Haxton Road project.

F.2 WSDOT SR539 Project

Carlson distributed a handout of the Guide Meridian project. The project covers from I-5 to Horton Road. WSDOT has approximately \$3 million of border funds to look at mobility improvements and the corresponding safety improvements. WSDOT has talked with every property owner in the project area.

He called attention to a portion of the project at the I-5 exit connection to Guide Meridian. They are working very closely with Bellingham on this area. In September WSDOT will select improvement options for 2013 construction.

G. REPORTS

Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Funding:  
Crawford distributed copies of the TIB "supplemental call for funding" announcement. There is \$50 million that will be added to the normal November award. There are three funding opportunities: Construction ready projects that must be ready to go to bid by March 19, 2012; Expanded Preservation Program for all cities with assessed valuation less than \$1 billion and projects are on functionally classified routes in need of asphalt overlay; Increased funds for small city pavement preservation.

Reauthorization: Miller reported that the Administration has come out with a memo outlining some of what they are looking at and a plan will follow. The House did the same last week and their plan will

come out this week. Their plan has a dollar amount attached to it and it is based on the current revenue stream coming in on the gas and diesel tax. This is a little less than half of the amount of the last funding period, approximately \$230 billion over 6 years versus \$600 billion last time. The Senate version is supposed to come out next week. They are looking at a 2 year bill that will really be a continuing resolution of what we currently have and then look at it after the 2012 election.

H. ADJOURN

**MOTION:** Jensen moved, Korthuis seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION PASSED**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

---

Robert Bromley  
Chair

---

Jim Miller  
Executive Director