

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
Whatcom Council of Governments
Meeting Summary
May 27, 2010

Start time: 9:30

Attendees:

Gordon Rogers, WCOG	John Hergesheimer, Port of Bellingham
Mary Anderson, WCOG	Dale Purcell, City of Lynden
Andres Gomez, WCOG	Janis Marlega, City of Ferndale
Ellen Barton, WCOG	Rory Routhe, City of Bellingham
Gary Davis, Whatcom County	Bill Bullock, Blaine Public Works
Mark Sandal, Lynden Public Works	Becky Kelly, WTA
Rollin Harper, Everson, Nooksack, Sumas	Chris Comeau, Bellingham Public Works
Kirk Vinish, Lummi Nation	Kerri Woehler, WSDOT
Joe Rutan, WC Public Works	

I. Member Updates - waived

G. Rogers: *Handout – WSDOT Bills of Interest – Planning*

J. Rutan: Two other things that may affect us are the Electric Vehicle Medium Speed, which are now allowed on County Roads, and the golf cart zone, which we may get some requests for.

G. Rogers: There is a proviso in the current State transportation budget requiring the Washington State Transportation Commission to prepare a list of up to 20 projects, by RTPPO, of the transportation project needs in the State, multi-modal, rail, and air included.

We will need to provide information on project type, cost, description, phases, what funding secured thus far, and on how the six legislated transportation goals will be addressed. We will have to submit rather quickly, by end of October. The Transportation Commission is preparing a template for submitting projects. The Transportation Commission will assemble and prepare all the 20-project lists and make recommendations to the legislators in January 2011 on how available funds should be used to address the needs. This could mean more funds coming to the local level. I don't have a handout for you now, but will send it as soon as it comes in.

We will have to haggle about what should be on list. This will be on the June TTAC agenda.

J. Marlega: Will we put together selection criteria in June?

G. Rogers: By then I hope they will be finished with the template, right now I'm just getting the discussion going, so everyone is clear on what it is we need to do.

II. STP Regional Process Timeline and Call for Projects

G. Rogers: There were no changes by Policy Board at their last meeting for STP-R criteria update. I haven't heard about money from WSDOT yet, hope to hear soon. We should expect \$2 million per year. We should program \$4-5 million for the next two years. We will meet in June and prioritize projects [this time frame has changed], and submit them to the Policy Board at their July meeting. The money will be available as soon as we get the allocation letter. Each jurisdiction should submit projects to me by June 17th, 2010. At the June meeting you will make presentations, we will have a four hour meeting [may be less with new schedule].

J. Marlega: Is there a standard format?

G. Rogers: Yes, but not extensive. I will send out a sample project submittal. Five pages max. More than one project per jurisdiction is allowed, that hasn't been a problem in recent years, most jurisdictions submit one, sometimes two.

III. STP Enhancement Process review

G. Rogers: *Handout- email from Stephanie Tax, describes projects that can be submitted*
Handout- Enhancement Guidelines for 2010
Handout – 2004-2006 Transportation Enhancements Scoring Criteria WCOG

Not for Profits are allowed to submit projects. We should expect \$579,000 of federal enhancement money to WCOG in 2010 [this has now been changed], which will be available soon. The Maple Falls Welcome Center got some money during the last go around, they are now looking for construction money, but the amount we will receive is probably too small for that.

M. Sandal: Does anyone have a federal project they are doing soon that could tack on enhancements?

J. Rutan: Most of mine are bridge projects.

C. Comeau: Bellingham just submitted a project for the State DOT bike/ped grant.

B. Bullock: Blaine has the Coast Millennium Trail project, SR 548; it is a conceptual design so far. We have ROW, need design and construction funds.

K. Vinish: Lummi has a round a bout we could use money on.

J. Marlega: Ferndale's Main St project could add bike lane, we are looking for more money on that project.

B. Bullock: Could we see how the last projects were scored?

G. Rogers: I can send that out to you.

K. Vinish: Whatcom Bike Month is a recurring event that we should fund.

E. Barton: We are intending to submit project for bike month and everybodyBIKE expanded projects, and maybe more for a second round of IndiMark [[independent marketing of alternative modes](#)].

K. Vinish: Maybe WCOG could be the lead on bike education events in the region; since they have the expertise, they can come to our jurisdictions and teach bike safety.

R. Harper: Everson is looking at another section of Bay to Baker Trail; this is in process.

G. Rogers: Can we do this in same time frame as the STP-R projects and use the same STP-E selection criteria as used in the previous cycle? If necessary, we could call a special meeting before June 24th. The Policy Board meets July 14th. Some TTAC members are out of town on June 24th. Should we change meeting date? [[The group decided to stick with June 24th.](#)]

M. Sandal: Should we look for projects that can add enhancements to it?

R. Harper: We can go through process, but are waiting for go ahead from Federal Level. Can we spend money before it comes?

B. Bullock: Enhancement is regionally based, not statewide competitive, so it's not as time critical.

G. Rogers: Both [[STP-R and E](#)] are on the same schedule, we just have a \$ number for one; the \$ number for other will come soon. K. Davis would like lists soon.

B. Bullock: We should find out if projects going on right now can add enhancements.

R. Harper: For STP-E last project go around was good, had different groups, apply. It was good to see those presentations.

J. Rutan: Enhancements doesn't mean just ped projects, it also includes fish passage improvement projects. We didn't have any environmental projects submitted last time.

G. Rogers: I think there are enough projects around the room that could be submitted. The project should complete on it's own under enhancement criteria. Deadline to G. Rogers is June 17th for both STP-R and E, will have presentations on June 24th. We will make decisions on that day [[this has changed –STP-R titles and brief descriptions](#)].

B. Bullock: Should there be a limit of one project per jurisdiction for enhancements because of dollar amount? [[The group was fine with that, but this is now changed to higher funding level.](#)]

IV. WCOG Transportation Plan – Regionally Significant System – Andy Gomez

G. Rogers: We went through this back in 1999 or 2000. A lot of roads were added that maybe shouldn't have been. That is how we ended up with primary and secondary parts of the regional system. Projects must be on regionally significant routes to get STP money. For this map we will not be labeling routes as primary and secondary.

A. Gomez: We will go through the map together today, and add routes where needed. The road doesn't have to exist today; this is a twenty year plan. Think about what will be regionally significant in 2032. We went through this last night with CTAG as well. Many TTAC Members have already given me their comments.

At CTAG last night K. Berg suggested deleting Jackson Road below Birch Bay Lynden, since Lincoln will eventually be connected.

J. Rutan: That might or might not punch through in 20 years. I don't want to lose the ability to get funds. We have a huge project on that road that could only be funded with federal money. I can explain to Kathy that we need to keep it on the map in order to get funds.

B. Bullock: Major collectors are not shown.

G. Rogers: There is a cap on the number of Functionally Classified road miles we can have, if we are at the max, we must declassify one in order to add one.

E. Barton: Could you take off the portion below the berm?

C. Comeau: We need connectivity.

R. Harper: In Everson, Nooksack and Sumas we are left with State Highways, I'm concerned with tightening down too much.

B. Bullock: Semiahmoo is not classified as an 07 facility, why is it on map?

A. Gomez: It can still be on the map, but if you want federal money, it must have FC. At a minimum, principal arterials, connection to activity centers and access roads are on the map.

G. Rogers: The Board has final word; you are making a recommendation to them.

A. Gomez: This system won't be used until the next STP funding cycle.

B. Bullock: H Street and Marine Drive are not on the Map.

A. Gomez: The main roads to Canada are State Routes, and I have Birch Bay Lynden as the major East West corridor.

B. Bullock: H Street connects three boarder crossings from 548 – 543. Sweet Road to Lynden is a truck route; it is regional since it connects two communities.

M. Sandal: I'd designate both roads.

J. Hergesheimer: I would designate D Street instead of H Street.

B. Bullock: You can't get to the Northern Border on D Street.

A. Gomez: I will add Marine Drive back to the system.

J. Marlega: Why Barrett Street and not LaBounty, I would prefer LaBounty.

J. Rutan: I would put LaBounty too.

J. Marlega: I will talk with my staff and see which they prefer.

C. Comeau: Pioneer Plaza will change traffic patterns.

M. Sandal: Did you take off all Lynden roads?

A. Gomez: I started with a clean slate, using criteria. I will add Main Street.

M. Sandal: The Lynden Fairgrounds are used for emergency trainings. If you add the Fairgrounds as a Regional Activity Center, I'd designate Kok Road as the access point and 17th. Both 14th and BC have Functional Classification; it is the North-South connector. Homestead is regionally significant. Depot Rd. should be added, it serves the airport and goes downtown. Regionally significant definition differs between the small cities and Bellingham. The city recently inherited East Lynden from the County; Bradley Road and Hamm Road need improvements and we can't afford to do them. We should also add East Grover from Hannegan to Vinup.

B. Bullock: You could use traffic counts as the litmus test of whether or not to include a road.

D. Purcell: Versacold Cascade is at Drayton and Grover Streets, it is a large employer.

A. Gomez: I will add Bob Mitchell Way in Sumas, Railroad St. to the Border, Highway 9 to Bob Mitchell, and Highway 9 to Front Street.

R. Harper: Add Everson Road from Mission Road to Pole Road.

A. Gomez: In Bellingham I will put Lincoln back in and add Bill McDonald Parkway, Indian to Chestnut and King St from Potter to Lincoln. I will also add Forrest Street, a major truck route, Cornwall to Sunset, Magnolia to Champion, Ellis to Lakeway and

from York to State, East Champion between Commercial and Cornwall and Girard from Commercial to Champion. I might add Puget St, if Civic Field is a Regional Activity Center.

C. Comeau: We talked about Alabama last night at CTAG.

J. Rutan: Add Iowa Street.

A. Gomez: Bellingham provided us with a list of streets to add; I will put them on the map and show it to the group.

J. Rutan: There will be a lot of growth in the City; Aldrich will need to be improved.

A. Gomez: I will send the changes to the group, we will discuss at the July TTAC.

J. Rutan: I'd like to see Lake Whatcom Boulevard and Northshore. We need to rebuild Lake Whatcom Boulevard, it's falling apart.

G. Rogers: The Policy Board can take roads off the system if they decide to do so.

A. Gomez: The next step is that I will send you the map with changes, they will be a different color, and then you can send me your comments.

V. Capital Project Map - waived

VI. New Project List Requirement - waived

VII. Adjourn