

May 11, 2010

DRAFT
MPO/RTPO/WSDOT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
DRAFT—MEETING SUMMARY—DRAFT

Clarion Hotel, SeaTac, WA

February 23, 2010

Note: These meeting notes reflect the discussion that took place at the meeting, with relevant updates.

1. Introductions

Coordinating Committee Chair Jeff Wilkens, Executive Director of the Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council (WVTC), opened the meeting.



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2. Chair's Report—Jeff Wilkens

The Committee adopted the December 8, 2009 meeting summary.

3. WSDOT Update—Brian Smith

The Strategic Planning Division Table of Organization is changed.



02-23-10 Strategic
Planning Division TO.pdf

A Community Transportation Planning Office (CTPO), created in January 2010, will address livability and land use. Elizabeth Robbins will manage the Office with two staff, Karena Houser and Katherine Klockenteger. The functions will mirror The United States Department of Transportation, (USDOT), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) working hand-in-hand on transportation and land use issues. The CTPO will share their work plan at the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

Status Update: Recruitment for the new manager of the Transportation Planning Office (TPO) resulted in the selection of Judy Lorenzo. Jeff Wilkens served on the selection panel. The traditional functions of the TPO have not changed.

WSDOT received \$65 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants including \$35 million for the US-395 North Spokane Corridor and \$30 million for the Mercer Corridor Redevelopment.

Brian reported the legislative session is considering several special studies. Please see embedded documents as a reference.



Cross Border Rail Study.pdf.lnk



SR516 Corridor Study.pdf



Statewide Planning Study.pdf



Transportation Commission.pdf

Status Update: The Joint Transportation Committee approved two special studies to examining the hierarchy of statewide transportation planning documents and the other focusing on transit (The Transit Blueprint).

4. Federal and State Legislative Updates—Brian Smith

Authorization legislation—Larry Ehl

The House has some technical budget issues with the Senate’s jobs bill and it is likely Congress will pass a short-term (15 – 30 day) extension of SAFETEA-LU. The House desires the bill to run through September 30, 2010 and the Senate prefers December 31, 2010. Funding is similar with the House at \$51.3 billion and the Senate at \$52.7 billion. Both address six core programs. For projects of national and regional significance, there is not much effect on the State of Washington. The future of transit earmarks is unclear as neither the Senate nor House bills address transit. The House and Senate both addressed general fund transfers. For more information and continuing development, see Larry Ehl’s blog at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/federal/>

Status Update: After a one-month extension through March 2010, on March 18 the President signed the HIRE Act (Public Law No: 111-147). Title IV of this act is the extension of SAFETEA-LU through December 31, 2010.

According to Larry, earmarks are good for some states and not so good for others. Connecticut did not receive any funds under the TIGER program. Earmarks do not always include good projects. However, it is likely there will always be a combination of USDOT competitive and earmark programs.

Highway project selections for TIGER grants were not as large as transit and freight. The Administration is serious about transit and livability. Distribution of TIGER grants is:
Transit \$522 million or 35%
Freight \$525 million or 35%
Roads \$378 million or 27%
Bicycle/pedestrian \$3.2 million or 3.5%

The highway trust fund’s need for replenishment is acute. What actions are possible? Possibly increase taxes, reduce the program, or seek general fund transfers.

Stimulus 2 project lists—Kathleen Davis and Jay Alexander

To get ready for the potential jobs bill, the Local Oversight and Accountability Panel is ready. It is the same group as before. It does not select, just “truth-tests” for readiness. Project lists are due around March 1 after RTPO policy boards meet. The selection panel will meet in March or April.

Status Update: The panel includes Kathleen Davis and one person representing each of the following: Washington Ports, the Transportation Improvement Board, the Tribes of

Washington, Washington Counties, and the Cities of Washington. The panel has not met because Congress has not approved funding of the bill.

FHWA is allowing advance programming for projects in the STIP and a follow-up TIP amendment when funded. FTA does not support this but is talking with FHWA.

Status Update: March TIP amendments included projects from five MPOs that are coded “JOBS” projects. The April TIP amendments will include more “JOBS” projects.

Kathleen Davis will meet with Sen. Haugen next week to discuss the Enhancement funding allocation process. Kathleen prefers regional allocation as has been done in the past.

Status Update: On April 1, 2010, Stephanie Tax, WSDOT Highways and Local Programs Division provide MPO and RTPO Directors with the most current information available concerning Transportation Enhancement funding and project prioritization. In brief, WSDOT will allocate Transportation Enhancement funds to RTPOs and they will be responsible for their own calls for projects, prioritization and selection of projects.

Jay Alexander is working to allocate funds saved on completed projects to ARRA Tier 3. WSDOT will seek additional funds not obligated by other states..

Status Update: Dennis Skewis, WSDOT Capital Program Development and Management Office, indicates that WSDOT is still and will continue to push a bow wave of Washington State ARRA funds not spent on projects until all funds are gone. As for funds from other states, there are no remaining funds unobligated for redistribution.

State legislative session update—Leonard Bauer and Dillon Auyoung

Dillon was unable to attend the Coordinating Committee meeting due to of a conflict. Leonard and Dillon collaborated on the legislative session material in advance and Leonard made the presentation. Copies of February 23, 2010 WSDOT Bills of Interest-Planning and a Growth Management Bill Tracking List are embedded below:



2010 WSDOT Bills of Interest - Planning.pdf



GMABillsList.pdf

Discussion on several key planning bills included:

- SSB 6271 Annexations by Cities: Sound Transit promotes the bill that addresses annexations by cities and code cities located within the boundaries of a regional transit authority.
- SSB 5548 Public facilities & impact fees: Clarifies the list of facilities eligible for funding from impact fees. Developers who build facilities may receive credit for impact fees.
- ESSB 6774 Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD): Provides for a modified composition of the TBD governing body. The governing body of the MPO may govern the TBD.
- ESSB 6603 General aviation airports: Restricts incompatible land uses adjacent to general aviation airports.

The Department of Commerce is examining its operating budget. The status of GMA grants is uncertain. The buildable lands program is taking cuts. Next biennium is unknown. Commerce may have to rethink the program.

Status Update: Now that the legislative session has ended, staff will ask Government Affairs and Commerce to prepare a summary of key bills that passed.

5. Statewide Transportation Policy Plan—Washington State Transportation Commission Update—Gordon Rogers/Charlie Howard/Paul Parker/Bonnie Berk/Paul Roberts

Transportation Commissioners Carol Moser, Elmira Forner, and Latisha Hill expressed their interest in addressing the Coordinating Committee membership concerns as they develop the Plan.

- The Commission reiterated a commitment to incorporate RTPPO inputs into the WTP Policy Plan work.
- The Commission sent a letter out to each RTPPO/MPO requesting a list of accomplishments since 2006 and their list of project needs for the future. There was a discussion about the interest in level of detail by the Commission. Several organizations were not aware of the request. The Commission agreed to re-send the request. Input is due by the end of March.



2-22-10 WSTC
Request Letter.docx

- The group discussed the length of the proposed project list. A list of regional projects is not as long as a detailed list of all projects in the RTPPO area. This topic needs more discussion. The issues of greenhouse gas will affect the type of projects on the list.

The draft public information and outreach strategy will be available for public review in July. The Plan will be adopted in December 2010. The Commission wants and needs MPO/RTPPO input to make the WTP a statewide plan. There will be eight public meetings prior to October 2010. Four of these are stakeholder listening meetings in Bellevue, Yakima, Spokane, and Vancouver. WSDOT's Executive Order Working Group will hold four public open houses in partnership with the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, the Puget Sound Regional Council, and the Thurston Regional Planning Council between June 30 and October 30, 2010.

Lengthy travel to attend meetings at these locations is a concern. Paul Parker indicated the Commission would hold a meeting in each area of the state in the next three months. He also offered to attend RTPPO meetings as needed. More information is forthcoming. A link to the Transportation Commission is

[http://wstc.wa.gov/http://wstc.wa.gov/Washington State Transportation Commission](http://wstc.wa.gov/http://wstc.wa.gov/Washington%20State%20Transportation%20Commission)

6. Highway System Plan Update—Jay Alexander

The big issue is how the HSP relates to local plans. WSDOT wants a better understanding of what is on local agency lists. WSDOT has a goal to develop a process to include local projects in the HSP. A concern is that if a project is in the HSP, it is not a commitment to deliver if the situation changes. Another concern is including projects and running up the total to double digit billions, as this is not realistic. Three time periods are being discussed, with the first being the primary focus:

- Near-term (6 years);
- Mid-term (6 – 13 years); and
- Long-term (more than 13 years).

Focus areas for the HSP include:

- Improve the flow from design to construction. .
- Interact with the RTPOs.
- Identify longer-term solutions RTPOs feel are important and make them open and visible for discussion.

Question: Are the Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) still relevant? Staff will follow up.

Status Update: In 2007, Senate Substitute Bill (SSB) 5412 eliminated the language providing priority fund for the HSS. RCW 47.04.280 includes the codified language. This means the HSS system is not a high priority funding issues in the Highway System Plan.

7. Target Zero and Non-Motorized Safety Projects

Communicating Target Zero at the local level—Robin Mayhew/Dick Doane/Cesi Velez.

The Target Zero program ties into Governor Gregoire's goals for safety as well as the state policy goals, the WTP and the Commission's Policy Plan. The program addresses funding, structures, and personnel. A Target Zero update is underway and will go to the Governor in April 2010. The presentation is below:



safety 2 23
presentation ddev.p

Where impaired driving, speeding, and run-off-the-road collisions were the main contributing factors, this resulted in 1,725 traffic fatalities in Washington from 2006 – 2008. These three areas are the top traffic safety areas receiving attention in 2010.

Telling the Washington State Target Zero story is important. Cesi works for the Kent Police Department. She participates in one of 24 task forces that reach 90% of Washington's population. In Kent, work in this area began in 1983 as the Drinking Driver Task Force; now it is called the Target Zero Task Force. Several programs

include “click it or ticket”, “drive hammered – get nailed”, speed readers in elementary school areas, and using funding for the Safe Routes to School programs.

A concern is the lack of teeth in Target Zero, relating to constitutional rights. Two prosecuting attorneys have been hired by the State. They advise and mentor local prosecutors in cases related to impaired driving, primarily driving under the influence (DUI). Target Zero received a budget increase and funding for emphasis patrols to pursue impaired driving, seat belt use, and cell phone use while driving.

The PSRC Target Zero program includes SMART Corridors. S = Safe and sustainable, M = Multimodal, A = Accessible, R = Reliable and resilient, and T = Technology. PSRC has prepared an existing conditions report addressing 13 areas of transportation in the Puget Sound Region. The link to the PSRC Smart Corridors is at <http://www.psrc.org/transportation/cmp/>

Pedestrian mobility—Kathleen Davis

Ms. Davis acknowledged that last year WSDOT received some feedback on WSDOT’s earmark project selections because there was no set priority for this program. WSDOT realizes the need for a pedestrian prioritization system. Region Planning Managers and RTPOs will identify the top 10 projects in their areas. After the project lists are reviewed, funds can be applied for when money is available. The funds may be either federal or state.

Status Update: Paula Reeves, WSDOT Highways and Local Program Division indicates the top 10 list is expected towards the end of April 2010.

8. Executive Order (EO) 09-05 Working Group—Brian Smith

The Executive Order Working Group has met to discuss issues related to Vehicle Miles Traveled. The group will compile a report due to Governor Gregoire November 15th, 2010.

As part of implementing the Executive Order, WSDOT is working with Commerce, Ecology and Puget Sound Regional Council, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, and Thurston Regional Planning Council to develop and adopt regional transportation plans that provide people with additional transportation alternatives and choices, reduce greenhouse gases, and achieve statutory benchmarks to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled in counties with populations greater than 245,000. The group will prepare a report for Governor Gregoire on the RTPOs that have developed or are developing plans to achieve the goals and strategies in section 2(b) by December 1, 2011.

Two staff summary background papers on measuring vehicle miles traveled and use of the Highway Program Management System (HPMS) are completed. They are embedded in this summary:



HPMS for Statewide
VMT Draft Dec14_200



VMT and GHG Draft
Dec14_2009.pdf

9. Air Quality Update—Cliff Hall

A copy of the air quality presentation is embedded in this summary:



MPORTPO AQ
02232010.pptx

Air quality standards are changing to improve air quality and aspects of the environment related to emissions. These include:

- Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) final rule published 12/14/2009
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) final rule published 1/22/2010
- Ground level ozone (O₃) Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) issued 1/6/2010 with comments due 3/22/2010 and a final rule expected in August 2010

The counties possibly affected by the ozone rule may include King, Pierce, Spokane, Clark, and Thurston. The proposed rules could, at their most stringent make it possible for almost any area of the State of Washington to become a non-conforming air quality area. The MPOs for these areas will have to change from EPA's Mobile 6.2 modeling to the new Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES 2010) modeling at a future date.

10. Human Services Transportation Plan Round Table

Don Chartock, WSDOT Public Transportation Division opened by reminding everyone that federal and state rules require Human Services Transportation Plans to be updated. Updates are required every four years. Last done in 2006, the next update is due in 2010. A template for the plan is on the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) website [ACCT Homepage](#)

San Juan County will prepare their first plan this year.

The Public Transportation Division can provide RTPOs with technical assistance if needed.

11. Meeting Adjourned—Thank you! Next Meeting Date: May 18, 2010

The Clarion Hotel in SeaTac is the meeting location for the following 2010 meetings:

- August 24, 2010
- November 30, 2010