

**Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO)**  
**Minutes**  
**January 27, 2009**

**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kirk Vinish, TTPO Chairman, opened the meeting expressing his appreciation to the Puget Sound Regional Council for hosting our meeting. The minutes of the October 28, 2008 meeting were approved.

**II. Welcome to Puget Sound Regional Council**

Bob Drewel, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Executive Director welcomed the TTPO and introduced his staff. Bob explained that the PSRC encompasses King, Pierce, Kitsap and Snohomish counties (including cities, counties, ports, state agencies, transit and tribal governments). Steve Kiehl, PSRC, provided an overview of "Transportation 2040", an update to the Puget Sound Region's Transportation Plan. This plan consists of six alternatives each including different degrees of the following elements: demand strategies, system management, pricing, roads expansion and transit expansion. The target adoption date for the plan is 2010. Robin McClelland, PSRC, discussed the public outreach efforts which focused on including tribal governments in the development of Transportation 2040. She also stated that PSRC is committed to remaining active in the TTPO and is happy to host future meetings.

**III. Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA)**

Craig Bill, Executive Director of the GOIA, accompanied by staff member Rebecca George, provided the TTPO with a summary of the purpose of the GOIA. This gubernatorial appointment serves as a liaison/advisor to Tribes responsible for developing policy level relationships with tribes. He expressed the Governor's commitment to the Centennial Accord and to working with tribes on a government-to-government basis on the many important issues facing Indian Country in Washington State, such as the gas and cigarette tax issue. GOIA established a tax work group which sponsored six tax workshops for legislators, counties, cities and tribes) that were conducted across the state in 2008. Craig is also interested in learning more about the TTPO but could not commit to attend each quarterly meeting.

When asked how GOIA can help facilitate Tribal access to funds, Craig replied that he can help ensure that requests flow through proper channels. As an example he noted his recent email to tribes regarding a summary of the economic stimulus package process.

Kirk stated that the BIA is proposing to use the existing BIA-IRR process to distribute any economic stimulus funds and requested that GOIA assist in ensuring that the BIA road inventory is accurate for consideration in funding transportation projects. Additionally, the TTPO will work with Tribal leadership to support issues such as this by sending letters to the Governor's office. Craig pledged that he can ensure that the information and/or issues papers get to the proper Governor's staff.

David Frey offered to assist Craig in developing a list of tribal issues and projects so the GOIA can track them on behalf of the tribes.

Jim Longley, TTPO Vice-Chairman, noted that funding for transportation and reauthorization of the transportation legislation require closer working relationship with GOIA and that the TTPO is interested in developing closer ties with GOIA. Although WSDOT was helpful in establishing the TTPO, secure future funding, beyond the \$15,000.00 per biennium, is still necessary. The TTPO would like to establish itself permanently in the WSDOT budget and would also like to fund an Executive Director position and eventually a support staff position. In response, Craig recognized the recent tough economy and expressed concern about budget cuts and difficulty in accessing

budget funds. Kirk suggested a letter from GOIA to the governor's office expressing support for the TTPO and any opportunities for funding would be appreciated.

Kirk agreed to draft an issues/position paper letter to GOIA (Craig Bill) and to WSDOT (Paula Hammond) and Washington State (the Governor). It was also agreed that the TTPO issues could be forwarded to ATNI Chair, Brian Cladoosby, for the next meeting agenda.

#### **IV. Economic Stimulus Package**

Kirk reported that the IRR-Coordinating Committee has been tracking the most recent legislation on economic stimulus package and reauthorization. At this time, the House and the Senate have yet to resolve their differences which would allow the bill to pass. For the BIA IRR funds, it is most likely that any additional funding will be distributed per the existing TTAM process. The stimulus package money will be allocated to both Federal and State agencies for distribution.

Kirk expressed the Tribes' frustration to Leroy Gishi (BIADOT) regarding the inaccuracy of the project list presented by BIADOT. BIA then moved to correct the list by issuing a call to Tribes urging them to submit "shovel ready" projects. As a result the BIA received a list containing \$151 million worth of projects on January 23, 2009. Of the 45 Northwest Tribes, 14 did not or were not able to respond. The possibility of requesting funding for the TTPO from the stimulus package was discussed. Julie Rodwell noted that the House version of the stimulus package bill contained \$70 billion for transportation related projects. WSDOT will provide a summary of the content of that bill soon.

#### **V. Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Inventory – Resolution for the Washington State Congressional Delegation**

Kirk recently traveled to Washington D.C. and there met with the staff of the Washington State congressional delegation consisting of Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Representative Larson and Representative Baird. After describing to them the many issues and challenges that Tribes are experiencing with the BIA in getting roads into the IRR inventory, these congressional staffers stated that Tribes need to be more vocal regarding the problems (the distribution formula isn't fair and the inventory is not accurate) with BIA inventory. Senator Murray's staff encouraged the TTPO as a group, and individual tribes, to send an email expressing concern, frustration and difficulty with the BIA inventory process. It was noted that Mary McBride, of Senator Murray's staff office in Yakima, is very helpful and a friend to the Tribes in getting Senator Murray's attention of topics of concern. John Bissell, Consultant, stressed the need to convey that the BIA – IRR system is "broken" and that Washington State Tribes are handicapped by this broken system because inventories upon which the funding is allocated are not accurate and/or up to date.

Per Senator Murray's staff request, a resolution supporting performing a comprehensive IRR inventory for Washington Tribes, was drafted. Kirk reviewed the draft resolution, "TTPO 01-09", with a team edit. He will email the final draft to all TTPO members for final approval and can then hand carry the resolution to Senator Murray's staff in Washington D.C. in February.

**Motion** by Michael Cardwell, Second by Kerri Shepard to send out draft resolution to the TTPO membership for approval. Motion carries.

#### **VI. Lunch –Tour of the PSRC Office and Program Displays**

#### **VII. Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) – BIA IRR Tribal Consultation session preparation**

Rick Galloway joined the meeting via telephone conference link and the meeting software called "GOTOMeeting". He provided the group with an overview of the BIA – IRRCC formal consultation process. He explained that this consultation process is mandated as the result of a Presidential Executive Order. Strict protocols exist for all parties to follow during a formal consultation meeting. The Tribal Transportation Allocation Methodology (TTAM) was negotiated and developed per this process. Tribes agreed to this initial formula and want to keep it in place; the Federal government wants to make changes. So, Tribes want to be sure that any proposed

changes to the allocation formula are subject to formal consultation. This topic will be discussed at the upcoming ATNI meeting in February.

#### **VIII. IRR Work Group**

Kirk explained that the distribution formula is affected by cost-to-construct (CTC) data which may be old, non-existent and unusable. The BIA and the State are attempting to reconcile their data and allow BIA to use state CTC data which will result in accurate and up-to-date CTC data to share with our BIA offices. Tribes may need to encourage BIADOT (via a letter) to request they accept our state CTC data. This topic will be addressed at the next TTPO meeting.

#### **IX. Tribal/State Transportation Conference**

Megan Beeby, WSDOT, will prepare a conference re-cap report for each of the tracks. It was generally agreed that the planning track was well presented. Paula Hammond's (WSDOT Secretary) attendance much appreciated. It was suggested that we invite congressional staffers to future TTPO meetings.

#### **X. 2009 TTPO Work Plan**

One final edit to remove deliverables that could not be accomplished without staff and a secured budget was completed. This final product will be sent to Megan Beebe to share with Secretary Hammond for the FY08-09 program year.

**Motion** made by Michael, seconded by Kirk to approve the work plan as amended. Motion carries.

#### **XI. Roundtable/Announcements**

**IRRCC** - The IRRCC hosts a telephone conference every Friday. Any comments for the IRRCC can be sent to Kirk who will make sure they are addressed. In March the IRRCC will be meeting with the under Secretary of Transportation. Kirk is willing to accept email messages and comments that he will present during this meeting.

**Richard Rolland - Northwest Tribal TTAP** – Richard announced that the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) Executive Committee will meet during Transportation Safety Conference in April. To-date the NWTTAP contract has only been renewed for 2 months. The Washington State Safety Summit is scheduled for May. With a WSDOT grant, and using the Colville reservation as a model, a GIS based road map is being created. Also, the Transportation Safety Symposium is scheduled for April 13 - 16 at the Portland Red Lion. More information will be sent at a later date.

**Tribal Safety Advisory Committee** – Megan Nicodemus stated that Lyn Drake would like the TTPO, in the form of Jim Longley, represented at their committee meetings. She also noted that there is information on their website on available grants (or email Lyn Drake for more information).

**Northeast Washington RTPO** – Karen Van Soest stated that the NE WA RTPO includes the Spokane, Colville, Kalispel Tribes.

**ATNI Winter Conference and APA Conference** – Michael Cardwell reminded us about the ATNI Winter Conference to be held at Tulalip, February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The APA Conference is scheduled for April 2009.

**Stillaguamish** - Casey Stevens reported that he has applied for and received transit grants that will allow expansion of their transit fleet by 7 vehicles.

**Robin Mayhew** – previously with FHWA now with PSRC.

**WSDOT Transit Grants** - Don Chartok called for volunteers to help develop the needs portion of the "Travel Options" grant. This is a web based trip planner that assesses state transit connections and offers riders/users options for transit travel. Grant reviews will take place in the March/April 2009 timeframe.

**Robin McClelland** – PSRC thanked us for coming and welcomed us to return for future meetings.

**BIA** – Economic Stimulus Package (see handout) Tab 5 – Project Selection Criteria – could be helpful to Tribes in generating projects.

**Makah** – Greig Arnold reported that they have two bridge projects ready to go and two other projects funded (one a way finding project and the other Shi Shi Beach). Also, they are renovating the driveway to the museum and preparing for Canoe Journey 2010.

**WSDOT** – Bob Jones warned of continued winter road closures especially Hwy. 112 to Neah Bay which is a chronic winter problem.

**Jamestown S'Klallam** – Annette Nesse reported that the tribe received a Scenic By-ways grant to construct a traveler's restroom facility at the Sequim Bay Scenic Pull-out.

**Quinault** – Jonathan Ciesla is expecting a tribal transit grant of approximately \$200,000.00. He asked if the Tribal TIP was automatically being shared with WSDOT from FHWA? It is important to establish a process so that information is shared. It was suggested that Megan Beeby could follow up on this request.

**Colleen Jollie** – As a consultant, Colleen has been working on the Skokomish Transit Plan and the Nez Pierce Strategic Plan.

**WSDOT** – Julie Rodwell announced that WSDOT has called for the RTPO/MPO TIPs. She will email the eventual call for projects.

**Nisqually** – Jim Longley gave an overview of the discussion at the 2008 Tribal/State Transportation regarding the RTPO/tribal relations workshop that he, Karen Van Soest and Julie Rodwell presented. He noted that he presented Kelly Croman and Marty Loesch a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of TTPO at the conference, for their superlative work lobbying the new gas tax bill to successful passage of SB 5272 in 2007. He also thanked Michael Cardwell for his persistent and successful work generating scholarship money (the Joe De la Cruz Scholarship) for tribal planners attending The Evergreen State College.

Jim noted that he has requested \$1000 from the new dedicated gas tax account at Nisqually Tribe (utilizing the passage of SB 5272, above) for use by TTPO in its efforts to stay afloat financially. He mentioned that he hopes other tribes with new gas tax compacts will consider doing the same. money for future tribal planners. Lastly, Nisqually has budgeted \$1000 from their gas tax revenues to support the TTPO.

**Lummi** – Keri Shepard – Lummi has received a grant for transit and to construct a floating side walk.

## **Good of the Order**

**Elections** - will be held at our next meeting scheduled in April.

**Future Meeting Locations** - A discussion regarding the meeting schedule for 2009 included the following comments:

1. Meet 3 times at PSRC during the year with the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at Tribal/State Conference (when applicable)

2. Meet at Tribal facilities with first agenda item a brief presentation from the host Tribe.
3. Meet at a central location due to ease of access for most.
4. Meet at a central location for 3 out of the 4 meetings with the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled at a Tribal facility

**Note** – “GOTO Meeting” should always be available for those TTPO members who are willing to participate in the meeting but are unable to travel to the meeting location.

Jim noted that PSRC would like to have us continue to meet at their Seattle office, there is no cost for their facilities and establishing a regular meeting location makes planning meetings for efficient and effective.

Kirk offered a compromise which consisted of scheduling our next meeting at the PSRC offices and include on the agenda, a discussion to plan for our remaining meetings at Tribal facilities that can offer GOTO Meeting.

This discussion item was tabled until next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date and Location** – April 21, 2009 at the PSRC offices.

**Adjourn**