

**Tribal Transportation Planning Organization
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2009**

1. Welcome

Kirk Vinish, TTPO Chairman (Lummi) opened the meeting and thanked our hosts, PSRC, for hosting our meeting.

Motion: by Jim Longley (Nisqually) to approve the May minutes with edits. Seconded by Michael Cardwell (Tulalip). Motion carries.

2. Election of Officers

Kirk summarized the by-laws regarding elections: to be elected the person must be an employee of a Washington State Tribe and be approved by a vote of the membership.

Motion: by Theresa Sheldon (Tulalip) to keep the current slate of officers including Kirk Vinish – Chairman, Jim Longley – Vice Chairman, and Annette Nesse - Secretary. Seconded by Casey Stevens (Stillaguamish). Motion carries.

The question of establishing additional board positions was raised for future consideration.

3. Establishment of Tribal Transportation Priorities

Kirk presented a power point presentation regarding the federal transportation reauthorization bill. The information provided in this presentation is intended to be used to update the Congressional staff, in attendance later in the meeting, regarding Tribal transportation issues. It was noted that there is a push by large Tribes to include only BIA and/or tribally owned roads in the official BIA inventory. All roads owned by others, such as the state or the county, are then proposed to be excised from and in the future, excluded from, from IRR system.

Even though President Obama has recommended putting transportation reauthorization off by 18 months, others are pushing for reauthorization sooner (i.e. now or within no later than 6 months).

Rick Galloway's comments on Kirk's federal lands highway white paper are to think "big" in considering new ideas for transportation funding or offer suggestions on how to fix the current system. Because NCAI works by consensus in representing Tribes it is important that they hear, loud and strong, the message from the Northwest Tribes.

Currently, the BIA-IRR National Funding Formula is as follows:
50% - Cost to Construct (CTC)
30% - Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
20% - Population figure (based on NAHASDA data)

A more equitable formula to propose is 1/3 CTC, 1/3 VMT, and 1/3 population factor.

Larry Ehl, Federal Liaison, from WSDOT, in an update on federal transportation reminded the group that the current federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, expires 09/30/09. The draft legislation for reauthorization, the Oberstar Bill, is being considered for extension for another 18 months. The Obama administration wants a transformational transportation bill, including performance measures and climate change criteria.

The following implementation timeline options are being considered:

1. 18 month extension of "clean bill" (same as current bill);
2. 18 months, extension new bill; or,
3. Present new 6 year bill now.

Extension is a time opportunity to influence the Oberstar bill (keep what we like, delete what we don't). It is a time to develop information on IRR conditions and get Congressional staff to the reservations to see the road conditions first hand.

Representatives Larson and Baird are supportive of the 6 year bill now option. Senator Murray supports the 18 month extension option.

It was suggested that the membership of the TTPO be encouraged to support the upcoming ATNI resolutions regarding a new transportation bill.

Jim: send power point to all TTPO members for editing.

Kirk: feels that the power point presentation is ready to go, and that it should be used today for the bullet point discussion. Then, add detail to send to the Congressional staff later.

Casey: feels it is opportunity to break the ice with Congressional staff.

Michael: feels it would be incredibly beneficial to give them something to take back with them.

Motion: by Michael Cardwell, to provide the power point handout today with caveat that it is for informational purposes only and not for distribution. Seconded by Casey Stevens. Motion carries with 1 opposition vote. Opposition vote later withdrawn with further edits incorporated into the presentation

Larry Ehl suggested the following when talking to Congressional staff:

- 1) Tell a Tribal specific story to support each concern.
- 2) Ask Congressional staff what strikes them, what do they feel is important to relate to address our concerns.

Next Steps:

1. TTPO creates side by side bill language.
2. TTPO members distribute power point to Tribal Councils for review and potential adoption.
3. TTPO gathers feedback and finalizes power point and other materials.

4. Distribution of final information packets to Washington Congressional Staff.
5. TTPO members ask Tribal Councils to adopt ATNI recommendations; results add to TTPO effort but don't delay it.
6. Kirk (and maybe Larry) will talk to DC Congressional staff in September with Tribal Council resolutions, power point and any other materials created.

4. Updates and Announcements

- **ARRA Tribal Process Questionnaire Results** – A local “economic stimulus” project review team was created to select projects for ARRA funding. Jim Longley represented tribal interests as a participant on the selection team. Some tribes felt that there were problems with Tribal projects getting funded. Out of 110 projects submitted, only 4 tribal projects were awarded funding. The results of the questionnaire titled “Tribal Transportation Planning Organization Economic Stimulus Questionnaire Responses – A Summary (July 20, 2009), regarding how tribes felt the process worked will be sent to WSDOT, in summary form, to Megan Beeby for distribution within WSDOT to Katie Taylor, Kathleen Davis, and Elizabeth Robbins.
- **Centennial Accord Meeting Recap** – Megan Beeby provided a brief recap of the recent Centennial Accord Transportation Work Session. This work session included identification and prioritization of tribal transportation issues and associated action items. See hand-out for detail.
- **Status of WSDOT Review of the TTPO** - Megan Beeby reported that Secretary Paula Hammond has received the TTPO work plan. WSDOT is in the process of reviewing all transportation committees and boards at the same time to prevent the perception of bias. The review is not yet scheduled. TTPO support from WSDOT is status quo but might change after the review.
- **Tribal TIGER Grant Application Process** - Jack Cox, from HDR Consulting, is leading efforts to assist interested tribes considering the viability of a joint application. Tulalip and Lummi are each preparing to submit independent applications for their large projects. There may be an opportunity for tribes with smaller projects, Jamestown, Upper Skagit and Lummi, to submit a bundled application to compete for a piece of the \$1.5 billion national set aside.

Next steps – HDR to prepare an economic analysis for all three Tribes and then develop a cost per Tribe for HDR to put an application package together. The applications are due in 45 days. WSDOT has pledged to provide technical support but has not offered an official endorsement of the proposed applications.

- **Scenic By-ways Program Update** – tabled.
- **Tribal Input to WSDOT Tribal Liaison Recruitment** - The TTPO leadership has twice expressed interest in participating in the hiring of the WSDOT Tribal Liaison. Each time WSDOT has denied a TTPO representative a place on the interview team. They have only allowed us to provide general comments about the qualifications of the successful candidate. The interview team for the upcoming

selection of the WSDOT Tribal Liaison includes:

Craig Bill - Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Steve Reinmuth - WSDOT
Dillon Ayoung - WSDOT
David Burnett – Chehalis Tribe

Interviews will take place at the end of July.

5. No-host lunch

6. Briefing of Washington Congressional Staff

Kirk Vinish welcomed the congressional staff and thanked them for accepting our invitation. He noted that this meeting was intended to provide them with information about the TTPO and the tribes' transportation issues. The congressional staff in attendance included:

Sharmila Swenson and Mendy Droke – Jay Inslee's office
Lincoln Vanderveen – Dave Richert's office
Latasha Wortham – Norm Dick's office
Sally Hintz and Michael English – Maria Cantwell's office
Matt Perry and Roen Van Der Lugt – Adam Smith's office

Kirk presented the power point presentation, "2009 Tribal Transportation Priorities for New Transportation Authorization", developed earlier in the day. The presentation points included:

1. Issues tribes are experiencing with the BIA-IRR system;
2. A list of recommendations regarding transportation needs in Indian Country for the congressional staff to share with our congressional representatives;
3. Support for NCAI's transportation recommendations; and,
4. A list of "next steps".

In discussion, the congressional staff offered advice on the question of "what can Tribes do to advance the Northwest Tribal transportation agenda?" They stressed the importance of keeping the congressional staff informed; emails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings are the best way to communicate with them. Letters are not the best option. However, letters can be sent to the congressional representative but always with a "cc" the staff person as well. TTPO offered to share the state's version of the Tribal roads inventory with the congressional staff to compare against the BIA's current inventory.

Lastly, we discussed consideration of adding "Legislative Issues" to future TTPO quarterly meeting agendas.

7. Additional Announcements/Good of the Order/Next Meeting - Date and Place/Adjourn

a. Richard Rolland:

Nov 16-19, 2009 - National Transportation Conference - Phoenix

April 18-23, 2010 - NWTT Symposium - location to be announced
NWTPP Advisory Board needs nominations.

b. Megan Nicodemus has resigned from WSDOT due to personal reasons.

c. WSDOT's Tribal Transportation Planning Guidebook - see handout

d. TTPO Meeting Schedule :

Fourth Quarter 2009 Meeting – October 9th, 2009 at Tulalip. American Planning Association (APA), WA State Chapter APA & TTPO joint Meeting.

First Quarter 2010 Meeting – PSRC, Seattle, WA

Meeting adjourned.