

Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation meeting summary
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park
Olympia, Washington 98504

Friday, June 14, 2013
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Board members present: Page Scott, Brian Lagerberg, Madelyn Carlson for Lynn Moody, Jenny Jensen, Allan Jones, Tom Hingson, Mitch Reister, Marco DiCicco, Sue Bush, Kelly Scalf and Todd Slettvet

WSDOT staff: Don Chartock, Cathy Silins, Jason Beloso and Jef Lucero

Welcome and introductions

Approval of March meeting notes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The motion passed.

Membership update

Don introduced the new council members: Mitch Reister, Washington Association of Counties (Chelan County); Sue Bush, DSHS; and Jenny Jensen, at-large representative (Chelan County).

Legislative review

Karen Parkhurst shared a list of bills CTANW has been tracking this session. Substitute Senate bills 1499 and 1519 and House bill 1644 are of particular interest to the council. Tom spoke briefly about the budget items that WSTA continues to track. Despite hopes, the public transportation division component of the operating budget did not pass out of the Senate.

Allan mentioned that OSPI notified legislative staff that a supplemental budget must be passed by June 21 in order for funding for school districts to be apportioned. Marco added that 112 school districts won't be able to make payroll without a budget. People For People is also awaiting word on the budget, and is preparing to eliminate the 211 system should funding not be secured. Brian mentioned that the transportation operating budget passed, which allows WSDOT to continue its grant contracts.

Work plan for 2013-2015

Don began by going over the items for the past biennium's work plan: the statewide Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP), the veterans workgroup, mobility management measures and cost sharing. Potential additional items include establishing MAP 21 performance measures for special needs transportation, the regional HSTP and identifying dual eligible Medicaid and ADA clients. Page stressed the importance of focusing on performance measures, as those are what will matter most when it comes time to secure funding again.

Emergency planning

Jason began by going over some what's happening from a national perspective, as well what's being done regionally. He's attended some recent national conferences and shared a few updates from them. As he still has a few upcoming conferences to attend, Don asked Jason to provide an update on those to the council. Brian cited the efforts of local transit agencies that mobilized to provide resources for vulnerable populations following the recent bridge collapse on I-5 in Skagit County. He also suggested that we work to develop a plan to make the best use of those resources once they become available.

Dominic Marzano with the emergency management division for the city of Kent went over some anecdotal takeaways from the perspective of a local emergency manager's perspective. He emphasized that while local and regional partners have a strong understanding of the importance of emergency management, much work still must be done to better coordinate and communicate across agency and partner lines.

Don suggested a memorandum of understanding between modes. Page stressed the importance of focusing on clear lines of communication in a crisis situation. Don suggested some brainstorming sessions between now and the next meeting so that Jason can report back at a future meeting on deliverables.

HSTP for RTPOs

Don began by pointing out the main objective of the plan: to coordinate transportation services for people with special needs. He and Ryan have been meeting with stakeholders from WSTA, CTANW, RTPOs, brokers and tribes to discuss deliverables for the HSTP. Don went over the plan for meeting federal requirements and priorities while maintaining consistency with the council's vision and goals, emphasizing the focus on measurable objectives. He also touched on the need for each region to be consistent with other regional plans and frameworks.

Statewide Public Transportation Plan

Cathy began by outlining the plan and development process for the Statewide Transportation Plan, which is required in statute. The plan's advisory committee met to develop a proposed goal for the project and evaluate the most efficient ways to communicate the work of the committee with other stakeholders. Ultimately, the plan will be submitted by Transportation Secretary Peterson to the Legislature and the Governor's office.

The Statewide Public Transportation Plan will be relevant and comprehensive. The plan will describe the current policies that support public transportation, the importance of local services and prioritizing investments, coordination, connectivity and communication.

Brian noted that WSDOT has been asked to integrate the industry into a plan. The agency is still working through what that means and looks like, and the end result could go a long way toward helping bring every WSDOT employee along in the process of integrating public transportation in the agency's culture.

Member and audience comments

Allan: There are two different viewpoints on when student transportation will get its funding, and how much it might receive.

Marco: School is letting out- please be mindful of children on foot and on bicycles this summer.

Kelly: We've just completed perhaps our largest contract ever with WSDOT and hired some new staff. The volunteer drivers' guide is also complete.

Tom: Everett Transit will go fare-free for the Homeless Connect program June 27. The agency was also happy to provide support to the memorial service for WSP trooper Sean O'Connell.

Don: The WSDOT Public Transportation Division grants program has made all its announcements for the most recent round of funding.

Madelyn: We're developing a common, user-friendly software system for call centers.

Todd: The Affordable Care Act could add 300,000 people to the Medicaid program. We were recently asked to help with a pilot project on emergency-room reduction.

Sue, Mitch and Jenny: Happy to be on the council- thanks for the opportunity!