

MEETING NOTES

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DISCUSSION

DATE: January 13, 2006

ATTENDEES: Mike Harbour, WSTA; Marilyn Mason Plunkett, CTA-NW; Page Scott, YVCOG; Eric Phillips, WSDOT Planning; Brian Lagerberg, PTCO; Patty Alvord, PTCO, Don Chartock, PTCO; Cathy Silins, PTCO; Karen Parkhurst, TRPC; Robin Phillips, PTCO; Katherine Klockentager, WSDOT Planning; and by phone Rosemary Siipola, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum COG.

FACILITATION: Robin Phillips and Eric Phillips

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. AGENDA CHANGES OR ADDITIONS

No changes or additions.

3. RELATIONSHIP OF THIS PROCESS TO OTHER PLANNING /REPORTING PROCESSES:

Discussion about the attached timeline and the work that we need to do in short order if we want to be able to keep to our grant solicitation schedule. MPO Coordinating group is meeting near the end of February. PTCO and ACCT staff will be discussing this topic with CTANW the 27th of January, and at the ACCT meeting February 3d.

ACCT is a key forum for bringing in Human Service agencies at the state level and making them aware of the new requirements that we have for transportation planning and project development for the three grant programs § § 5310, 5316, 5317. The PTCO staff would like to keep the consolidated grant programs and have a single solicitation that integrates the above mentioned grants as well as § 5311, Rural Mobility and Special Needs Discretionary. People agreed that that was a good goal.

4. PROPOSAL AND TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING

We next looked at the timeline and realized that it should start with “now” and go to the time we need to have the planning together for the grant solicitation. The group thought that ACCT would be a good place to get some representation and support for connecting with human service agencies in areas where there are not local coalitions. The Federal law leaves much open to interpretation but the group discussed using existing processes as much as possible and have a transition year as we develop plans needed to allocate grant funds in 07-09. October is the beginning of 07 Federal Fiscal Year. We discussed the possibility of getting grant funds to MPOs and RTPOs in small dollars to support the planning process and help develop the information necessary for the plans. The non-WSDOT people at the table were very supportive of this and thought it was a good idea if we were going to encourage the non-participating planning organizations to work with the new requirements AND get projects identified in time for the grant solicitation in August- November.

There was quite a long discussion about RTPOs and the fact that some of them did not have a history of working with Transit in their areas and that RTPOs are volunteer organizations. The group wanted to make sure that there was an alternative to having the RTPO handle the work. The proposal we agreed on was to bless the groups but if they did not want to participate a local coalition could receive the funds. So either a state planning group or a designated local coalition could work with the local stakeholders to develop a plan, identify and prioritize projects and submit those projects to the RTPO for forwarding to the state. Page was very concerned that we keep in mind that MPOs have the federal coordinated human services transportation planning requirements under SAFETEA-LU, but to keep in mind that RTPOs are voluntary organizations and may not be up for additional planning responsibilities unless there are additional resources to accomplish them.

5. STAKEHOLDERS

The group agreed that we need to invite tribal planning representatives to our next meetings and work closely with tribes to get representation and facilitate tribal access to both the tribal set aside and funds managed by the state.

We also wanted to get representation on the committee of human service and employment services so that we would have good feedback on both the process and the plans with the target audience.

6. STEERING COMMITTEE

We next discussed the need for this group to have a formal relationship to the process and defined goals and responsibilities. This group is advisory to WSDOT and any final decisions will be made by Judy Giniger the manager of the Public Transit and Rail Division. The purpose of the group is to advise WSDOT on development and implementation of the Coordinated Human Service and Transportation planning process and requirements.

7. OTHER

This group wanted to keep apprised of the CTR process so that any templates that were developed to support local planning were not inconsistent with the requirements of the new CTR legislation. Planning that touched on programs eligible for federal funding needs to be done with an awareness of the new requirements of SAFETEA-LU. Don agreed to annotate the FAQ Sheet with information particular to Washington and the work we are already doing. PTCO staff agreed on putting together a JARC map to show where significant planning that includes human service stakeholders has already been done, and PTCO staff would work on some draft Criteria for the plans that is consistent with §§ 5316 and TDPs.