

TTPO Meeting Minutes  
August 8, 2006  
Quinault Beach Resort  
Ocean Shores, Washington

**Welcome, Invocation and Introductions**

Michael Cardwell, TTPO Chair opened up the meeting at 9 am. Jonathan Ciesla, Quinault Transportation Planner introduced Tribal Councilmember Eugena Hobucket and Richie Underwood. Councilmember Hobucket welcomed the TTPO to the Quinault beach Resort on behalf of the Quinault Indian Nation. Councilmember Underwood gave the invocation. There were 32 people in attendance, with representatives from 12 Tribal governments, FLH, WSDOT, Thurston Regional Planning Council, the Governors Office of Indian Affairs and Robert Distler, Washington State Transportation Commissioner.

**Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) Transportation**

Jonathan Ciesla briefed the group on the major transportation projects and issues that the QIN was dealing with. Jonathan reported that the update of their transportation was nearly completed by consultant Valerie Stevens. The draft should be completed by August 15, 2006. He predicted that the Tribal Council would be completed with their review and formally adopt it in January, 2007. In addition, Jonathan stated that the QIN was in the process of siting and constructing bus shelters on the reservation. Max Stocks, from the QIN Natural Resource Department, added that having a updated transportation plan would be very beneficial to his department.

**Approval of the May 11, 2006 TTPO Minutes**

The minutes from the last TTPO meeting were circulated to the TTPO. The TTPO adopted the minutes as written.

**Washington Transportation Plan**

This portion of the meeting was scheduled as a Public Outreach event for the Washington Transportation Plan Update. Judy Lorenzo, Statewide Policy Planning Manager introduced Commissioner Distler who was in attendance to listen to the comments as well as provide the Washington State Transportations perspective on the WTP.

Judy then let the TTPO know that the reason they were there was to share the Draft Washington Transportation Plan with the TTPO. Judy went on to explain the approach that was used to update the WTP; identify the key findings; identify the high priorities; explain the investment guidelines and guidelines; and review the remaining schedule. After Judy completed her presentation, Commissioner Distler identified many of the concerns and issues that the commission grappled with to produce the draft WTP.

The item was then opened up for comments and questions. The following is a summary of the discussion:

Several Tribal Planners commented on how well written the WTP is. There was also appreciation expressed about the effort that the Department had done to keep the Tribal planners involved in the update process.

There was recognition from the group that providing enhanced tribal planning capacity was listed as an unfunded high priority was appreciated. Now the important focus for the Tribes is to secure funding for enhanced tribal planning capacity.

A Tribal planner commented that tribes were not included in many areas where the cities, counties and state needs were mentioned.

There was general agreement that where safety priorities were identified on rural roads and highways that the Tribes face the same concerns on their reservations.

It was noted that adequate and safe transportation facilities throughout the state are necessary for economic development in Indian Country.

#### **Tribal fuel tax (not on the agenda)**

A conversation developed around the Tribal Fuel Tax issue. There was discussion about a meeting that the Governor is organizing with the Tribal leaders to talk about the agreement that has recently been negotiated with the Squaxin Island and Swinomish Tribes. There was a discussion that the TTPO should be advised of this negotiated agreement. There was a suggestion made by a tribal councilmember and a tribal planner that item relates to Tribal Sovereignty and it is not appropriate for the TTPO to discuss at this time.

#### **Public Transportation Grant Program**

Robin Phillips from the WSDOT Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation office made a presentation on the upcoming public transportation grant funding process. She indicated that her office will call for projects sometime in the December/January time frame. She indicated that the proposed projects should be included in a regional transportation plan. The GPAC will be developing criteria for grant applications shortly. Robin indicated that currently there were some grants that Tribes are not eligible for because they do not have taxing authority specific to public transportation.

Fred Eckenberg offered to share his successful funding package with interested Tribes. Robin offered to host a meeting in the future to assist Tribes in preparing grant applications.

Robin then handed out registration applications for the 17<sup>th</sup> National Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference that will be held October 22-25. The conference will be

held at the Skamania Lodge Conference Center just prior to the 2006 Tribal/State meeting. The purpose of dove-tailing the events is to encourage Tribal Leaders and Tribal planners to attend. Robin then advised the TTPO that there will be funding that they can apply for to help pay for their registration and travel expenses.

## **Lunch**

### **Target Zero**

Steve Lind, Deputy Director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) made a presentation on the Washington State Traffic Safety Plan (Target Zero). Mr. Lind described the planning process, goals, and recommendations of the plan. There was a discussion on the comments that the SWAT team had presented to him at a previous meeting. Steve indicated that the plan is fluid and will be improved and updated regularly. He also advised the TTPO that the WTSC made a Target Zero presentation before the Tribal leaders at the Governor's Centennial Accord meeting in June, 2006.

Kirk Vinish of the SWAT developed comments on Target Zero and submitted them to the WTSC on behalf of the TTPO. His comments are attached to these minutes.

### **Tribal Traffic Records Coordinating Committee**

Kyle Kitchel from the Western Office of the Federal Lands Highway Division made the presentation. Kyle is a representative on the committee that is trying manage, and improve traffic accident data on Tribal lands throughout the nation.

Kyle's presentation moved the TTPO to adopt a resolution (06-04) that urges the IRRPCC to direct the BIA BEO to accept ADT data from state and county governments without ADT methodology documentation.

### **2006 Tribal/State Conference**

The next TTPO meeting will be during the Tribal/State meeting that is schedule for October 25-27, 2006. The meeting will dove-tail the 17<sup>th</sup> National Rural and Intercity Bus and Transportation Conference at the Skamania Lodge which will run from October 22-24, 2006. Michael asked for volunteers from the TTPO to develop the Planning Track for the meeting. Michael Cardwell, Kirk Vinish, Ed Binder and Amy Loudermilk volunteered to be on the committee.

### **Committee Reports**

- Legislative-Jim Longley reported he will speak to his Tribal leadership to see if their lobbyist could help other tribes to formulate a strategy to garner support from the legislature to fund tribal planning capacity
- Michael Cardwell reported that represented the TTPO at the WTP Outreach Event in Olympia and presented a fact sheet outlining the needs of Tribal governments

on transportation issues (see attached). Michael reported that he received positive feedback from the Commissioners that were at the event.

### **Good of the Order**

Walter Jackson reported that he will be attending a tourism conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He indicated that the conference will focus on regional tourism projects and statewide Tribal Planning Committees. Walter is also on the 2010 Task force for the Vancouver Olympics. Kirk asked that he contact the Washington Association of Tribes and keep them in the loop on the business of the committee.

Michael Cardwell issued a challenge for the TTPO to help raise money for Tribal education scholarships. Michael suggested that the TTPO raffle off some Pendleton Blankets at the meeting to help raise funds.

### **Next Meeting**

It was recommended that the TTPO meeting scheduled in February 2007 be held at the new hotel facility on the Lummi Reservation.

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm