

Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization Executive Board Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2016

Pope Marine Building, Port Townsend, WA

Attendees

Executive Board

Mark Ozias, Clallam County
Wendy Clark-Getzin, Clallam Transit System
Patrick Downie, City of Port Angeles
Genaveve Starr, City of Sequim
David Sullivan, Jefferson County
Zoe Ann Lamp, Jefferson County
Tammi Rubert, Jefferson Transit Authority
Catharine Robinson, City of Port Townsend
Eric Younger, City of Bremerton
Andrew Nelson, Kitsap County
David Forte, Kitsap County
Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit
Bek Ashby, City of Port Orchard
Randy Neatherlin, Mason County
Dave Smith, Mason County
Mike Oliver, Mason Transit Authority
Judy Scott, Port of Allyn
Dick Taylor, Port of Shelton
Tracy Moore, City of Shelton
Annette Nesse, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Michelle Thompson, Makah Tribe
Teresa Wright, Squaxin Island Tribe
Marty Allen, Skokomish Indian Tribe

Guests/Staff

Matt Kunic, WSDOT
Tom Hanson, WSDOT
Kristina Arsenault, WSF
Dennis Engel, WSDOT
Debbie Clemen, WSDOT

Introductions

Annette Nesse welcomed those in attendance. She commented that this is her first meeting as Chair. Annette relayed that Mike Oliver, is the new Vice Chair and Judy Scott remained as the board secretary. She then initiated self-introductions of those present.

Action Item: Approval of the February 19, 2016 meeting minutes

Annette Nesse asked if there were any revisions to the February 19, 2016 meeting minutes. Upon hearing none, Annette requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. A motion was made, seconded and carried with no further discussion.

Washington State Ferries Update

Kristina Arsenault is the new Director of Community Services and Planning for the Washington State Ferries (WSF). Kristina has 17 years of Coast Guard experience. She has extensive experience in the field of emergency management, and executive level strategic planning. Kristina has been with the department for 9 months. Her responsibilities include the development of short and long-range system-wide strategic planning, community outreach programs, and championing customer service for WSF which transports 22 million passengers and 11 million vehicles annually.

Kristina commented that WSF is beginning the new Seattle Multimodal Terminal project at Colman Dock. This project will replace the aging and seismically vulnerable portions of the Colman Dock. This project is scheduled to take 6-years until completion. WSF is working to consolidate construction as much as feasibly possible to reduce congestion. Ferry riders can view the design of the new terminal, the Water Taxi facility, what to expect during construction and take a peek at the City of Seattle's initial plans for the Marion Street Bridge online from April 8-29 and onboard the vessels during the afternoon commute on April 19th, 20th, and 26th. For more information visit the WSF website at www.seattlemultimodalterminalproject.publicmeeting.info/.

She also relayed that WSF put its vending, galley-service and other retail-concession contracts out to bid. WSF selected Centerplate as the hospitality and retail company following a competitive proposal process involving 8 firms that provide various services. The transition from existing concessionaires to Centerplate will be completed by mid-June. Centerplate was chosen for its ability to expand service, offer a variety of local food brands and improve reliability across all 10 of WSF's ferry routes. Centerplate also operates concessions at Safeco Field; Tacoma Dome; and other public venues.

WSF is beginning the process of updating its long range plan. This will be the 3rd long range plan in the past 20 years. The plan update will focus on keeping the system sustainable while meeting customer and community expectations. The new planning effort will focus on:

- Improving transportation connections and anticipating the transportation needs of the future;
- Aligning long range planning issues with WSDOT's goals;
- Update of operational strategies with the Transportation Commission.

One interesting fact is that there is a vast difference in demand between the Eastsound and Westsound ferry users. Riders from the Seattle area want seamless transportation without using their cars. Another fact is that the Port Townsend run is the most used commercial vehicle route.

Q: What is the schedule for the long range plan?

A: WSF will develop a strategic communications plan by the end of 2016; a strong draft long range plan should be available by mid-2017 and a final plan is scheduled for late 2017.

Note: WSF will be reaching out to each transit agency, so expect to hear from WSF soon.

Washington State Ferries Update continued

Q: What about Passenger Only Ferry service from Bremerton to Seattle?

A: There is no funding stream to support passenger only ferry service. That service would be a privatized and not a service that WSF could offer.

C: Please include non-direct transit agencies with your transit coordination plans. (Mason Transit)

C: Steffani Lillie from Kitsap Transit commented that Kitsap Transit has been preparing a business plan for cross-sound passenger-only ferry service between three ports in Kitsap County and downtown Seattle. She commented that our goal is to compliment the service already provided by WSF. A November 8th vote of the people is scheduled to secure the funding. If the vote is favorable, an interagency agreement between Kitsap transit and the King County Department of Transportation Marine Division would be drafted to provide for operation of the service with Kitsap Transit retaining responsibility for service schedules, fare products, fare levels and capital investment programs.

Q: Is it possible to comment on WSF's Long Range Plan as an organization?

A: Yes.

WSDOT's Tribal & Regional Coordination Office

Matt Kunic WSDOT's Tribal & Regional Coordination Office Manager relayed that his office has had quite the transformation since the previous manager's Judy Lorenzo's reign. His office was formerly referred to as the Statewide Strategic Planning Office. Matt commented that he has been with WSDOT for 3 ½ years. He previously worked for a transit agency in North Carolina. The Tribal & Regional Coordination Office has 3 regional coordinators to assist the MPOs and RTPOs across the state and some of you may know our Fiscal Analyst Gail Renschler. For the Peninsula RTPO region, Angie Davis is your assigned coordinator. Angie was unable to be here today, but she looks forward to working with each of you.

On March 25, 2016, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law a measure that enables Island County to form a RTPO. House Bill 2815 allows any counties with a population of greater than 75,000 that also contain a Washington State Ferries terminal to form an RTPO. This new law will also let Island County access regional-planning dollars, participate in regional planning projects with access to other dollars and work with neighboring counties.

What does this mean for the Peninsula RTPO, it means that the already limited state funding source for RTPOs is now funding one more RTPO. Each RTPO will in turn receive a little less in state funding. The Peninsula RTPO's budget will be cut by \$600. However, PSRC ends up taking the largest budget cut with a \$5,000 reduction to its budget.

Note: WSDOT has implemented a new initiative called the Corridor Sketch program to designate "corridors" for each state highway. WSDOT is working with jurisdictions to gather relevant information resulting in a "one-stop shop" for WSDOT to store and retrieve background information and improvement ideas for each corridor.

WSDOT's Tribal & Regional Coordination Office

Corridor Sketch Program continued

C: Mike Oliver commented that he would appreciate an opportunity to revisit the Corridor Sketch results.

A: Dennis Engel relayed that Olympic Region gathered data for 56 corridors in our area. Over the next 3-5 years, staff will review the information with jurisdictions. Phase one of this process was to identify "what do we know" and Phase Two will identify the deficiencies in the corridor.

Peninsula RTPO Regional Modal Update

David Forte commented that there have been several setbacks delaying the model's development. Kitsap County is optimistic that they can still get the regional model up and running soon. Kitsap County is close to finalizing a contract to bring back their previous modeler Jim Rogers to finish up the model work. Looking ahead at maintaining the model, Kitsap County is looking into hiring a consultant for that work. David again relayed his apologies for the delay.

Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Update

Tom Hanson, WSDOT's Public Transportation Community Liaison Supervisor, commented that there is new guidance available for the HSTP's Consolidated Grants Program that needs to be ironed out before the project grant ranking and selection processes can begin this fall.

The Consolidated Grant Program provides both state and federal funding to support public transportation services statewide. Grantees compete for state and federal funds, which are administered through WSDOT's Consolidated Grants program to provide better connectivity, sustained service, new buses and other mobility improvements to people in every county in Washington State. All 39 counties to benefit from enhanced mobility for rural, special needs, and low-income populations.

Last year WSDOT awarded 116 public transportation projects totaling more than \$47.9 million. Tom commented that WSDOT is in the process of reviewing the existing grant program. The purpose of the review is to determine the programs' effectiveness and whether the methods used to award funds result in a fair and equitable distribution of grant funds. The review also helps WSDOT staff revise the grant award and oversight process. A series of 5 meetings were scheduled to review the Consolidated Grants application process, evaluation criteria, award policies, and contribute to grant administration improvements. The Grants Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings are scheduled through the end of April.

Kitsap County Transportation Tour

Steffani Lillie from Kitsap Transit invited members to attend the June 17th Kitsap County Transportation Tour. She commented that participants would meet at the Kitsap Transit's Administrative building in Bremerton for an enjoyable trip around Kitsap County. Participants will get to:

- Ride the Kitsap Transit's foot ferry from Bremerton to Port Orchard;
- Visit one of the largest park and rides in the area under construction with 265 parking stalls, 5-bay transit center, fuel and bus washing facility and 53 bus stalls;
- See the location of the future East Bremerton Transit Center, and
- Participants will receive a box lunch.

David Forte from Kitsap County then described the following two county projects that tour participants will also visit:

- The Manchester Stormwater Retrofit project. This is a wonderful example of a regional stormwater project that incorporates innovative ideas. In a beautiful park setting, this project provides the water quality treatment of stormwater for approximately 80 acres of the Manchester community. For your reference, online there is a time laps photos of construction.
- Tour participants will also visit the Bucklin Hill Bridge project. This project replaces two existing culverts with a 240-foot bridge span across the Clear Creek estuary and expands the existing roadway to 4-lanes. A scenic overlook and wider sidewalks will improve the pedestrian experience. The new bridge will boost tidal exchange which enhances the estuary and improves fish habitat. A 14 month total bridge closure was determined to be the best choice to get the project completed. David reminded members that the bridge project will still be under construction, and he recommended that members remember to wear or bring sturdy shoes on the tour.

Since the draft tour itinerary depicted a full day of touring, Chair Annette Nesse polled members on how many were interested in attending a 5-hour tour of Kitsap County. Over 15 members showed interest in attending the June tour of Kitsap County.

Q: Wendy Clark-Getzin inquired if the tour participants could view the American Cruise Lines ship when it comes to Port in Poulsbo? The ship departs from Seattle and visits Anacortes, cruises the San Juan Islands, then goes to Friday Harbor, Victoria, BC and Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Poulsbo and then back to Seattle.

A: Annette Nesse thanked Wendy for her suggestion, but commented that the tour schedule is already pretty lengthy.

Public Comments/Announcements

Annette Nesse asked members if there were any public comments or announcements to share?

City of Port Angeles

Mayor of Port Angeles, Patrick Downie apologized for his absenteeism the last few meetings. He has been experiencing some health issues. Port Angeles' Comprehensive Plan is currently out for public review. The big issue that Port Angeles has is dealing with the commercial truck traffic in the downtown core area. Patrick commented that we really need a commercial traffic bypass. Patrick also noted that Port Angeles was recently designated a Bicycle Friendly Community.

City of Shelton

City of Shelton Commissioner, Tracy Moore commented that good things are happening in Shelton. Pioneer Way Road improvement constructed pedestrian facilities. Shelton is also planning to make improvements to the Railroad Avenue entrance to the city. The roadway will be reduced from a 4 lane facility to a 2 lane facility with pedestrian facilities. Our goal is to make Shelton a walkable community. An urban trail on the southside of the creek is planned.

Kitsap Transit

Steffanie Lillie commented that Kitsap Transit just received \$4.5 million in a national grant competition for their Annapolis Ferry Terminal project. With the federal funds, Kitsap transit plans to install a new ramp to provide equal access for elderly and disabled passengers as well as to make improvements to the pier and float.

Adjournment

Annette Nesse congratulated Kitsap Transit on their national grant, and then adjourned the meeting.

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