

**Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

November 21, 2014

Jefferson County Courthouse

Port Townsend, WA

**Attendees**

**Executive Board**

Brad Collins, Clallam Transit  
Clint Wetzel, Clallam Transit  
Patrick Downie, City of Port Angeles  
David Sullivan, Jefferson County  
Zoe Ann Lamp, Jefferson County  
Tammi Rubert, Jefferson Transit  
Pete Hanke, Port of Port Townsend  
Andy Nelson, Kitsap County  
Bek Ashby, Port Orchard  
Randy Neatherlin, Mason County  
Judy Scott, Port of Allyn  
Dick Taylor, Port of Shelton  
Tracy Moore, Shelton  
Annette Nesse, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Richard Wells, Squaxin Island Tribe..  
Lennea Wolfe, Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Gordon Neilson, Skokomish Indian Tribe

**Staff/Guests**

Dennis Engel, WSDOT  
Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries  
George Kovich, WSDOT  
Debbie Clemen, WSDOT  
Allen Moore

**Introductions**

Executive Board Chair David Sullivan called the meeting to order. David noted that a meeting quorum of members is in attendance today. David initiated self-introductions of those present.

**Action Item: September 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

David asked if there were any revisions to the Sept. 19, 2014 meeting minutes. Upon hearing none, David requested a motion to approve the Sept. 19, 2014 meeting minutes as written. A motion was made, seconded and carried with no further discussion.

### **Action Item: Regional & Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP & STIP)**

Debbie Clemen commented that normally the RTIP and STIP is approved at the September meeting, however a quorum of members was not present at that meeting. Members were provided with a spreadsheet summary of R-TIP projects. The summary depicted the total number of secured and planned R-TIP projects and the total amount of Federal, State and Local funding for each agency. David asked for a motion to approve the 2015 RTIP and STIP. A motion was made and carried with no further discussion.

### **WSDOT Ferries Division Long Range Plan Update**

Ray Deardorf, Planning Director for the Ferries Division commented that the Washington State Transportation Commission has selected the name Chimacum for the newest Olympic class 144-car ferry currently under construction. Ray then presented an overview of Washington State Ferries (WSF) Long Range Plan. He commented that WSF has produced two long range plans over the past 20 years. The 1999 plan looked to the year 2015 and was geared toward system expansion. The 2009 plan looked to the year 2030 and focused on how best to utilize the system's assets more effectively and preserve existing service. The following key components of the 2009 plan have been funded and are complete:

- Vehicle Reservation System Phase 1
- 4 new vessels completed, 2 additional vessels are under construction or funded.
- Pricing strategies, including widening the gap between vehicles and passenger fares, small car discounted fare, and lowering the youth fare.
- Improved customer communications via the website to allow easier planning to avoid congested times.
- Coleman Dock and Mukilteo terminal environmental and design processes.

The 2014-2015 plan update will extend the planning horizon to 2040. The alternatives and draft plan would be developed subsequent to the 2015 legislative session. The final plan update will be available by the end of 2015.

Members voiced the following comments regarding WSF:

- Integrate transportation plans with WSDOT and improve public transportation service.
- I can't access free WiFi at the ferry terminal. This prevents users from accessing public transportation websites.
- What does the future hold for Coleman Dock? Where is WSF with that and the tunnel?  
A: The sequence of construction is in flux. The seawall project is moving ahead. Construction impacts at Coleman Dock are being coordinated.
- Where do you see alternative fuels and WSF going?  
A: WSF is looking at smaller diesel engines with batteries and natural gas engines. WSF is looking at the possibility of retrofitting medium age vessels. The use of battery powered vessels may be possible at Clinton or other areas with 15 minute crossings.
- The Olympic Peninsula has a lot of freight and tourist traffic, we don't recommend smaller vessels. Port Townsend/Coupeville is the busiest large truck 50'+ route.
- The reservation system is a good thing. However during peak hours the reservation system doesn't work so well.
- Freight routes are the life blood of the Olympic Peninsula.
- Port Townsend/Coupeville run is now the busiest large truck (over 50'+) route.

## **Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Ranking Results**

Debbie Clemen updated board members on the Transportation Alternatives Program grant selection. She relayed that the following projects were awarded TAP grant funds for the respective year:

### **2015 Applications**

- Awarded \$60,550 to Clallam Transit for their Peninsula & Bicyclist Underpass Enhancements for US 101 @ Owl Creek project.
- Awarded \$153,528 to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for their Highway 101 Olympic Discovery Trail Diamond Point West project.
- Awarded \$68,840 to Mason County for their Clifton Lane Sidewalk Improvements project.

Total 2015 TAP allocation: \$282,918

### **2016 Applications**

- Awarded \$190,000 to Clallam County for their ODT – Spruce Railroad Trail Segment project.

Total 2016 TAP allocation: \$190,000

### **2017 Applications**

- Awarded Clallam County \$95,000 for their ODT – Spruce Railroad Trail Segment project.
- Awarded Port Townsend \$95,000 for their SR 20 Pedestrian Walkway Logan St. to Hancock St.

Total 2017 TAP allocation: \$190,000

3-Year Total TAP allocation: \$662,918

## **Human Services Transportation Plan Consolidated Grants Status**

T.J. Nedrow presented an update on the Human Service Transportation Plan (HSTP) effort. He commented that the Community Education and Involvement, Data Collection, and Data Analysis/Information Review tasks have been completed. The draft HSTP plan is mostly complete. The deadline for comments on the plan is December 1<sup>st</sup>. In January, staff plans to work with stakeholders to create a plan for on-going transportation coordination after the HSTP effort is over.

Next T.J. extended his appreciation to Annette Nesse and the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe for hosting and providing lunch for the November 14<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Grants Ranking workshop. He also thanked those members who served on the Ranking Committee; Judy Scott, Gordon Neilson, Dennis Bloom, Bek Ashby and Dennis Engel for their service. T.J. commented that 19 grant applications were submitted as compared with the 20 grant applications in 2012 and 26 applications submitted in 2010. The ranking committee identified 7 "A" priority projects, 7 "B" priority projects and 5 "C" priority projects. Note all "C" priority projects ended up being either deemed ineligible or were withdrawn by the project sponsor. Bek commented that some project applications were precise and concise making the job of scoring easy. Other applications were very difficult because the information just wasn't there. Ranking Committee members pre-scored each application and then adjusted the scores after their presentations. Brad Collins, Clallam Transit, voiced his concern with the fairness aspect of the under-represented group on the ranking committee (no representative from Clallam County on the ranking committee). The selected Clallam County representative declined the offer to participate in the process.

## **Legislative Outreach**

Debbie Clemen commented that at the last Executive Board meeting, members voiced the benefits of hosting a legislative outreach event to bring legislators up-to-date on the current needs and priorities of the Peninsula RTPO. Evidentially there is now a surcharge for reserving meeting rooms on the Capital Campus. Debbie inquired with the group what their feelings were about meeting in WSDOT's Commission Board room located directly across the street from the Capital Campus in order to save the \$75 room rental fee. Members felt that meeting at WSDOT would work.

She then asked the group if they prefer the larger size of the 2012 Legislative handout versus a smaller tri-folded handout. The group preferred the larger size because it grabbed your attention more than the smaller version of the handout. Members also had the following suggestions for updating the Legislative handout:

- Increase the font size to 12" to make it easier to read
- Replace the photos in the "Unfunded" section with actual unfunded project photos.
- Replace the ferry photo with a ferry route map.
- Reword the "Thank You" statement.
- Move the Unfunded Projects to the front of the document.
- Add Aging in Place text.
- Replace the current bus photos with a Paratransit bus and a bus with a bike rack to show more multi modal.
- Add contact information for officers.
- Use photos featured in the RTP.

Staff will contact Districts 23, 24, 26, and 35 area legislators and determine their availability for an outreach event. Bek noted that Representative Jesse Young was new and would require additional background information.

## **Public Comments/Announcements**

### **Letter of Support**

Patrick Downie from the city of Port Angeles requested a Letter of Support for their application for designation as a "Bicycle Friendly Community" from the League of American Bicyclists. Patrick commented that the designation lasts for 4 years and then you are required to reapply for designation. Patrick commented that the Olympic Peninsula is Washington State's premier destination for non-motorized touring, filled with views of snow-capped peaks, ocean vistas, fast flowing rivers and pristine lakes and everywhere the majestic forests of the Pacific Northwest. Staff will draft a Letter of Support for David Sullivan's signature. Annette Nesse commented that the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe is also interested in applying for this designation and will also send a separate Letter of Support for Port Angeles' nomination application.

### **Lennea Wolfe's Retirement**

Lennea has decided that it is time for her to retire. Her last day on the job is December 19<sup>th</sup>. Members extended their congratulation and best wishes. Members commented that "it's a big step" and "now you will have more time for your sewing projects."

### **Adjournment**

David Sullivan adjourned the meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2015, at the Kitsap County Public Works Annex in Bremerton.

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