

ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) EXECUTIVE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 24, 2018

Executive Board Members in Attendance:

Member Attendance List

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Mohammad Mostfavinassab, Port of Coupeville
Mike Nortier, Island Transit Exec. Dir
Tim Callison, Mayor, City of Langley
Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Bill Oakes, IRTPO Executive Director
Todd Carlson, WSDOT
Jackie Henderson, Island Transit

Other Attendees

Connie Bowers, Island County
Thera Black, SCJ Alliance
Maribeth Crandell, Island Transit
Doug Coutts, S. Whid Parks

Members not in Attendance

Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey
Bob Severns, Mayor City of Oak Harbor

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

January Action Items:

- Update website with final agenda and minutes.
- Update with new members.
- Schedule a health and transportation presentation
- Seek appointment of IRTPO Vice Chair in February
- Direction given for staff to investigate feasibility of an EV charging partnership project
- Direction given for staff to investigate feasibility of a Scenic Isle Way partnership project
- Direction given for staff to pursue an aerial imagery update project
- Determine status of China City charging stations

Meeting started at 11:00am

Motions:

- **Agenda:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Minutes of October 25th 2017 Meeting:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Nomination/Appointment of IRTPO Chair:** Motion to appoint Helen Price Johnson as IRTPO Chair was approved, with all in favor.
- **Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) WSDOT amendments:** Motion to approve amending the IRTPO RTIP to include: WA-10903 SR525/Honeymoon Bay-Bush Point Rd – intersection improvements, WA-10912 SR

20/Deception Pass & Canoe Pass Bridges – Seismic Analysis, and WA-10890 Regionwide Shoulder Rumble Strip Installation 2018 RTIP was approved, all in favor.

- **Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Island County amendments:** Motion to approve amending the IRTPO RTIP to include: WA-10920 Island County 2017 Safety – Guardrail, WA-10921 Island County 2017 Safety – Flexible Guideposts, and WA-10918 Island County 2017 Safety – Shoulder Paving was approved, all in favor.

Selection of IRTPO Chair for the 2018 cycle

- Helen Price Johnson was nominated and accepted the nomination. The appointment of a Vice Chair was inadvertently overlooked and will be addressed at the February meeting of the IRTPO Board.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendments for WSDOT

- 3 WSDOT project amendment requests were put forth for the IRTPO Regional Transportation Improvement program
- Board members were reminded that the RTIP is a list of projects that are approved to go forward in our region by the IRTPO.
- WSDOT indicated that two of the projects (rumble strips and seismic analysis are routine), but the Honeymoon Bay-Bush Point Rd (WA-10903) project needed further discussion.
 - WSDOT's preferred improvement for the location would be a roundabout, but the funding would be insufficient so they will likely look at low cost improvements and then return the remaining funding.
 - The Board expressed the desire to look at other options within the vicinity that would address the problem.
 - WSDOT indicated that the budget is a line item, so it lacks the flexibility to apply the funds more broadly.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendments for Island County

- 3 Island County project amendment requests were put forth for the IRTPO Regional Transportation Improvement program. The projects were all safety efforts: guardrail, guideposts and shoulder widening. There was no discussion.

Special Needs Transportation Planning Project

- The board was reminded of the IRTPO charge to help ensure that all people have access to transportation. It was noted that the IRTPO is developing a Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) that identifies need, resources and priorities for intervention and that the plan will be instrumental for regional sponsors in applying for WSDOT Consolidated Grant funding.
- To facilitate development of the HSTP, the IRTPO has kicked off the Special Needs Transportation Planning Project to:
 - Helps develop our network of stakeholders and end-users
 - Compile the needed data for the HSTP
- We are in the process of reaching out to our current network stakeholders and the public and a website has been set up for Human Services Transportation Planning: tinyURL/IslandHSTP
- Question: Creative ideas for participants or plans?
- Answer: We have solicited known contacts to help us expand our network and our consultant has particular experience with contacts in the central Puget Sound area that may help us fill out our network further. Creative project ideas have included mobile health clinics and improved telemedicine options.

Potential IRTPO Partnership Projects

- Staff sought direction from the board to explore the feasibility of applying for two or three regional concept projects for the next call for federally funded projects in March:
 - Installation of enhanced electric vehicle charging stations with one or more partners.

- The City of Langley owns 3 units and they are now trying to find a way to maintain these through the company Blink. Langley is also aware that PSE is looking into EV charging. It was recommended that contact be made with Lynn Murphy at PSE. PSE may be able to add charges to regular electric bill. Langley is willing to hold off contracting with Blink if a larger project may go forward.
 - It was noted that such a project may involve public private partnerships and this organization should consider
 - Do some research around the demand for EV charging, collection of information from stations that already exist? What rates are being charged at current stations?
 - Making recommended improvements from the Scenic Isle Way plan with one or more partners.
 - It was noted that Isle Way improvements could be considered for Camano Island as well even without the state designation.
 - Do some outreach to Island County tourism group for suggestions about where they see opportunities
 - Sherry Wyatt is a good connection.
 - Get on tourism agenda
 - Question: Does the Isle Way plan determine how signage is used in the corridor?
 -
 - Updating aerial imagery.
 - Can the Navy contribute aerial imagery funding?

Farmhouse Gang Legislative Forum Outcome & 2018 Agenda

- The Farmhouse Gang (or North Sound Connecting Communities Program) met with legislators, including
 - Senator Steve Hobbs (D-44th)
 - Representatives June Robinson (D-38th) and Carolyn Eslick (R-39th)
- A summary of the Farmhouse Gang's Healthcare & Transportation workshop report was presented, which noted:
 - Similar health-related transportation challenges for disadvantaged citizens across the five counties (Island, San Juan, Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish)
 - Solutions that ranged from the need for legislative attention to the problem, to local solutions such as mobile medicine and telemedicine clinics.
 - Representative Robinson sits on the Healthcare & Wellness, and appropriations committees and Senator Hobbs chairs the transportation committee. After hearing that the problems and solutions involved more than transportation, Rep. Robinson suggested the potential need for a joint health and transportation committee.
- 2018 Agenda
 - In your packet you have a handout from the Farmhouse meeting where you can see some of the organization's successes and needs
 - It is my sense that everyone in the Farmhouse Gang is behind getting more consistent funding for the County Connector Services.
 - The Health & Transportation issue is definitely ongoing, but the report generated from the workshop will help inform our Special Needs Transportation Planning project and our developing HSTP.

WSDOT Updates

- WSDOT **Other Updates**
- WSDOT open house January 31st at 5:30 pm at North Whidbey Middle School: focus on Sharpes Corner project.
 - Rapid Timeline April 9 to 4th of July (95 days). Miller Gibraltar will be finished first.
 - Significant delays expected at times
- Banta Rd/SR 20 Intersection Improvement. WSDOT has not selected the improvement, but it was noted that WSDOT will no longer consider a traffic signal unless there is a very compelling reason. It was also suggested that current signals in Island County may be converted to roundabouts in the future.

NEXT MEETING: Feb 28, 2018

DRAFT