

ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) EXECUTIVE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 25th, 2017

Executive Board Members in Attendance:

Member Attendance List

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Tim Callison, Mayor, City of Langley
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey Commissioner
Bob Monroig, Port of Coupeville Commissioner
Jackie Henderson, Island Transit
Mike Nortier, Island Transit Exec. Dir.
Jay Drye, WSDOT
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner

Members not in Attendance

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

Other Attendees

Connie Bowers, Island County Public Works

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

Action Items:

- Send Interim FY 2017 UPWP to WSDOT
- Correct October minutes 6-10% fare recovery
- Add Bob Monroig to appendix in Bylaws for Port of Coupeville

Motions:

- Co/ Johnson motioned to approve the interim Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2017 as written. Jackie Henderson seconded. Motion carried all in favor.
 - a. Clarification Request by Mike Nortier asking if budget proposed was only through June (2017). Brian confirmed that the budget extends to June 30th, noting this budget is a plan and that it is understood that not everything planned will necessarily be achieved.

Call to Order/Changes to Agenda

- The Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (IRTPO) Executive Board met in the Island County Commissioners' Hearing Room on January 25, 2017. The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:07 AM by Chair Price Johnson.
- Agenda was amended to update the board on a change to the federal grant project list.

New Port of Coupeville Representative

- Bob Monroig was welcomed as the new commissioner representative for the Port of Coupeville.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Presentation

The Interim FY 2017 UPWP was described and its development was reviewed:

- This work plan carries the IRTPO through June 30.
- Development of FY 2018 will begin right away with a draft due March 2017.
- The present plan was developed with help from WSDOT's Northwest Region and Tribal and Regional Coordination Office.
- The Executive Board gives initial approval to the UPWP, but WSDOT gives final authorization.
- RTPPO Requirements were reviewed under RCW 47.80.023.
- Planning efforts detailed in the UPWP are funded through:
 - WSDOT RTPPO Grant: Approximately 49K/year.
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds (STBG): Approved for approximately 88K/year for next six years.
 - Island County Roads fund: provides 20% match to STBG grant.
- The Interim UPWP comprised 3 elements:
 - Administration \$30K.
 - Multimodal Planning \$18K.
 - Regional Transportation Improvement Program \$4K.
 - There is overlap between multimodal planning and administration. Inclusion of some tasks under administration was recommended by WSDOT.
- Other details of work tasks included in this UPWP were reviewed with the Board.

Regional TIP Project Change

The City of Langley plans to request reassignment of the Transportation Alternatives funding that was awarded in October for its First Street Sidewalk Project:

- Original project focused on sidewalk improvements on the western segment of First Street (DeBruyn Ave to Park Ave).
- Change would improve sidewalk on the easterly segment of First Street (Park Ave to Anthes Ave).
- Request initiated due to Langley's receipt of a Transportation Improvement Board grant.
- Cost estimates for the eastern segment still being developed, but are not expected to exceed the original Transportation Alternatives award.
- Board discussion of this request highlighted the competitive nature of the Transportation Alternatives grant award.
 - Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Hannold both noted that the projects had already been ranked based on a certain description and reassignment of the funds would occur outside of that ranking.
 - It was noted that funding was available for all of the projects submitted at the last call, so reassignment would not impact other project submissions.
 - Commissioner Johnson was concerned that the priority for project delivery should be considered if funds are reassigned, given that the action would occur outside of the initial rankings
 - Connie Bowers clarified that part of the ranking process was used to assign when projects were delivered, a change in the project description might impact when the project would be scheduled.
 - Mayor Callison described the degraded condition of the lower sidewalk.
 - The idea of reassigning the funds to the new segment was not opposed if protocols were followed.
 - Commissioner Price Johnson noted that the IRTPO will follow all protocols regarding funding and effects of ranking at the next meeting.

Farmhouse Gang

- The Board was updated regarding the Farmhouse Gang's legislative forum in December: Island County Commissioner Price Johnson, Mike Nortier from Island Transit, and Ron Nelson of the Economic Development Council spoke on behalf of regional transit need.
- Brian noted that the meeting expressed a wide variety of regional concerns rather than staying focused on regional transit as initially intended.
- Mike Nortier discussed how the forum allowed us to hear the state's priorities and challenges, and that the McCleary Act is first on everyone's mind for the next session. Mike noted that we did hear everything from ferries to highways from northern regional representatives, but the meeting still served its purpose.
- Commissioner Price Johnson noted that the meeting was extremely well attended and provided a view of the dynamics for other legislative members outside our region. She indicated that the Farmhouse Gang is a small fish, but along with the San Juan it was important for us to bring our message of regional transportation need forward.

Mobility Summit

- Commissioner Price Johnson asked about the recent Regional Mobility Conference put on by WCOG
- Brian indicated that the meeting
 - Brought a diverse set of transportation and other human service providers together.
 - Attendees saw the complexities of using regional transit for special needs groups, but it also highlighted the ability of users to make far ranging regional trips with careful planning.
 - Attendees learned about the resources available from the NWRC.
 - A plan to repeat the summit annually was considered.

WSDOT Update

- Granite Construction will be doing the repaving work on SR 20/525; probably in March.
- There are many restrictions/limitations regarding when paving will occur along different sections of the highway
- Asphalt will be ground and recycled (two inches unless greater patch and repair work is needed).
- Commissioner Johnson wondered why WSDOT needs to do such extensive road surface repair and it was noted that WSDOT is behind schedule with maintenance due to funding constraints.
- The new NAS Whidbey Gate installation will likely occur before the Banta road project.
- Sharpes corner is planned to go to advertisement next fall, with construction in 2018.
 - WSDOT expects that education will make the roundabout successful, but the treatment will have some flexibility if traffic issues arise
- Ferry director Lynn Griffith is retiring. On February 1st former Assistant Secretary Of Community and Economic Development, Amy Scarten, will take over. Amy has a planning, policy, and law background. Her planning background will be an asset to our communities.
 - Commissioner Price Johnson suggested inviting the new director to speak to the IRTPO

New Items

- Langley received a complete streets grant of \$250,000 for First Street commerce area improvements. The grant was jointly granted to the Dept of Archeology. The organization Feet First will also come out to help with Langley's transportation element to help increase their pedestrian focus.
- The Port of South Whidbey is very interested in crossing opportunities in Clinton that might come out of Island Counties Non-Motorized Improvement project there. Commissioner Gordon also mention interest in the bike/pedestrian path from Clinton to Ken's Corner.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2016