

ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) EXECUTIVE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 28, 2018

Executive Board Members in Attendance:

Member Attendance List

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey
Mike Nortier, Island Transit Exec. Dir
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Mohammad Mostfavinassab, Port of Coupeville Commissioner
Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Tim Callison, Mayor, City of Langley
Steve Powers, Development Director, City of Oak Harbor
Bill Oakes, IRTPO Executive Director
Jay Drye, WSDOT

Members not in Attendance

Jackie Henderson, Island Transit
Bob Severns, Mayor City of Oak Harbor
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner

Other Attendees

Thera Black, SCJ Alliance
John Pope, Port of Anacortes
Sherrye Wyatt

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

February Action Items:

- Update website with final agenda and minutes
- Submit USBR Letter of Support to WSDOT
- Update goal statements based on Board input
- Continue investigation of potential IRTPO Partnership Projects

Meeting started at 11:00am

Motions:

- **Agenda:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Minutes of January 24th 2018 Meeting:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Nomination/Appointment of IRTPO Chair:** Motion to appoint Tim Callison as IRTPO Vice-Chair was approved, with all in favor.
- **Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) WSDOT amendments:** Motion to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for US Bike Routes 87, 95 and 97 including systems routing through Whidbey Island. Motion was approved, all in favor.

United States Bicycle Route System

- Anacortes Port Commissioner, John Pope, made a presentation on the United States Bicycle Route System and addressed board member concerns from last September 2017 regarding potential future required improvements and liability.
- John indicated that USBR designation does not add liability beyond what is already present on any roadway.
- The IRTPO Executive Director wanted it understood that, although popular route choices, two sections of the proposed route (Madrona Way and Penn Cove Road) did not have full shoulders and were limited with regard to potential future improvements to better accommodate cyclists, and wanted assurance that no future improvement would be tied to designation.
 - John Pope noted that many roads on USBR routes are impossible to widen, but that they may be selected for other reasons such as scenic value and comparative traffic volumes. John reiterated that USBR designation did not impose improvement requirements. Essentially, designation was intended to indicate a better route choice for those already choosing to cycle in a given area (understanding that all routes are available to cyclists anyway). In addition, if a portion of a route were to be deemed unsuitable in the future, the designation provides flexibility to specify new routing. Routes can be changed within nine months.
- The Board wanted to know if there was potential to bring the USBR further south on Whidbey. John indicated that the potential still exists for that concept.

Regional Transportation Plan Kickoff and Goals

- Thera Black gave an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan effort and oriented the Board to the work plan.
- Working with TAC to prepare draft goals.
 - TAC generally supported included goals concepts.
 - Discussion included: What is the IRTPO role? Should language be chosen show support or more directly state a goal?
- Board was asked to give direction to the TAC to pursue more directive or more support based goal statements.
 - Executive Director felt there could be a mix. Funding goals could be active since the IRTPO does actively administer grants.
 - Island Transit felt that some of the language was too directive. Mike Nortier's impression was that the alternative goal language worked well.
- Commissioner Price Johnson felt that Climate Change should be retained in the goal language. The Board members felt that both Climate Change and natural disasters would be addressed.

Regionally Mobility Grant Concept Letter

- WSDOT is looking for concept letters for its upcoming Regional Mobility Grant offering.
 - IRTPO staff coordinated with our WSDOT partners to look at what potential projects might fit this opportunity. In general these grants target projects that encourage reductions in personal vehicle use.
 - Park and rides are can be a consideration, but WSDOT was concerned that our needs do not match the grant targets well enough to be competitive
 - Overhead boarding was considered, but potential funding is already being considered for 2027, which would be a future RMG grant round.
 - DOT partners felt that targeting connection to the ferry system was important as it is an inter-regional asset.
- The DOT felt that our best opportunity could be sidewalk improvements between the Clinton Park and Ride and the ferry terminal.
- Staffed asked Board members to submit any additional input by the March 1st submittal deadline.
- The Board was in agreement that the concept letter should be submitted.

Potential IRTPO Partnership Projects

- Staff provided quick updates on the three potential projects.
 - Installation of enhanced electric vehicle charging stations with one or more partners.
 - Staff contacted Lynn Murphy of PSE. PSE is looking at ways to bring charging stations and EV resources to its customers. Lynn expects to have more information soon for us to discuss at an upcoming meeting. Some materials were provided to show that Island County compares well for EV vehicle ownership (lower number of persons for every EV) with neighboring PSRC communities and has a higher EV density than Skagit or Whatcom counties.
 - Mayor Callison indicated the he would like to know something soon, to help decide if he would be entering a contract with Blink to service existing and two future EV stations.
 - Coupeville is also very interested in EV charging.
 - Making recommended improvements from the Scenic Isle Way plan with one or more partners.
 - Discussed recent meeting with Sherrye Wyatt and Jack Pender to discuss potential Isle Way projects.
 - Sherrye felt that prioritizing an improvement project on our Isle Way, in time for the next IRTPO grant round is within reach. She will bring the topic to the Tourism Board next month.
 - Updating aerial imagery.
 - Board was informed that partner outreach regarding aerial imagery needs had been initiated and resolution examples were provided to give a better idea of what was being considered.

NEXT MEETING: March 28, 2018