

ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) EXECUTIVE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 26, 2018

Executive Board Members in Attendance:

Member Attendance List

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Steve Powers, City of Oak Harbor
Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Mohammad Mostfavinassab, Port of Coupeville Commissioner
Brian Tyhuis, NAS Whidbey
John Shambaugh, WSDOT
Jackie Henderson, Island Transit
Mike Nortier, Island Transit Exec. Dir

Members not in Attendance

Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Tim Callison, Mayor, City of Langley
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner

Other Attendees

Connie Bowers, IRTPO Staff
Bill Oakes, IRTPO Executive Director

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

May Action Items:

- Update website with final agenda and minutes
- Send Year End Report to WSDOT
- Send signed letter of input to WA Transportation Commission

Meeting started at 11:07am

Actions:

- **Agenda:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Minutes of July 25rd 2018 Meeting:** Motion approved, all in favor
- **IRTPO Year End Report:** Motion to Approve the IRTPO, state fiscal year 2018, Year End Report to WSDOT as presented was approved, all in favor.
- **Letter of Input to WTP 2040 and Beyond plan:** Motion to authorize IRTPO Board Chair to sign an amended letter of input to the Washington State Transportation Commission regarding the draft WTP 2040 and Beyond plan was approved, all in favor.

UPWP Annual Report

- The following information regarding the IRTPO annual report to the WSDOT was presented:
 - RTPO's must submit an annual report to WSDOT at the end of the SFY. The report provides feedback on each of the tasks and the budget identified in the UPWP for that year.

- For this year, the contracts for the Special Needs Transportation project and Regional Transportation Project were not completed until mid-fiscal year, so much of the available funding has yet to be expended.
- WSDOT staff review the report before we bring it to you for approval, so it is somewhat of a check the box item.
- Question: What do you do when you are over budget?
- Answer: No specific remedy for budget deviations are specified by WSDOT. This report takes the UPWP tasks and explains why we feel we were under or over budget on each item.

Washington Transportation Plan Input Letter (ACTION) 10 min

- The draft WTP 2040 and Beyond plan opened for comment this month. General public comment closed on the 20th. The last opportunity for comment from organizations is Oct. 5th.
- There are actually two WTPs. This plan (from the WA Transportation Commission) is considered the policy document, while WSDOT finalized an implementation plan last April (that we commented on).
- Staff & TAC review of the plan found several items that appear to be missing or could use additional emphasis. Including:
 - More emphasis for vulnerable populations needing transportation options
 - More specific safety references that emphasize technology opportunities that already exist
 - Support for the following:
 - Canada/WA border trips (in addition to WA/Oregon trips noted).
 - Passenger only ferries
 - Park and rides (not included at all)
 - Broadband access (in the plan, but some oppose leaving it there).

Regional Transportation Plan

- Thera Black of SCJ Alliance presented recent progress on the Island Regional Transportation Plan and reviewed the goals/policies framework presented last spring.
- Thera presented a draft strategic opportunities matrix, available on (IRTPO Regional Transportation Plan webpage).
- Board positions were clarified on a number of observations and topics as a starting point for further discussion at the TAC level.
 - The Board did not show interest in starting conversations about additional partnership uses for the Navy Outlying Field.
 - The Board did not see merit in pursuing designation of SR 532 as a highway of statewide significance, especially given the potential for concurrency conflicts and the low likelihood for additional new investment by the state in the corridor even if designation were to occur.
 - Thera clarified that the above discussions items did not reflect formal input to the planning process at this time.
- A central talking point was focused on emphasizing the four gateways to Island Region. It was noted that the county is poised to examine each of the gateways. There is an overlay on Camano Island for a designated gateway. No gateway work for Whidbey Island exists at this time. Clinton is probably best suited for a Whidbey overlay.

- Updates to the Scenic Byways plan would be a good opportunity to call out gateways.

WA Transportation Commission Coming to Town

- The Board was made aware of an upcoming visit by the Washington State Transportation Commission on November 13 and 14 to learn about local transportation needs, challenges and successes.
- It was noted that the Commission shares observations and makes policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. Details of the visit included:
 - 13th will be a transportation focused tour day with the Commission looking for our recommendations.
 - 14th will be an all-day meeting in Oak Harbor City Hall to learn from Island Region (and maybe some from Skagit/Anacortes).
 - Topic ideas includes: Ferries (Amy Scarton), Economic Development, Tourism, Transportation with the Commission looking for additional topic and speaker ideas.
 - The agenda must be finalized by October 31st.
- Conflicts were noted by the Board:
 - Washington State Association Of Counties.
 - Military Land Use Compatibility Committee.
- The Board Chair called for members to provide agenda recommendations as soon as possible.
 - For the Tour, seeing the Clinton sidewalk, park and ride, and investment on Ferry Dock Road emphasize the need for overhead loading were noted.
 - It was noted that arrival in Clinton in the afternoon would be preferred to see the full park and ride and other congestion.

Consolidated Grant applications submitted

- Consolidated Grant applications received were reviewed (available on IRTPO projects webpage).
 - 4 applications are from Island Transit: Operations funding for the County Connector, Mobility Manager, Heavy duty buses, and Medium Duty buses.
 - WSDOT accepted two applications from community organizations this year: Ryan's House for Youth and Stanwood Camano Senior Center.
- Next steps were summarized:
 - Project sponsors will present to the Transportation Equity Committee on October 15th and projects will be scored at that time. Recommendations will come to this Board on October 24th.
- Related news was shared:
 - Island Transit received a capital grant covering an additional Consolidated Grant application and the Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (SnoTraC) received one of two national grants to hold a mobility management meeting/workshop in December.
- Board Discussion: The lack of a larger number of community applications was discussed with a call to consider partnerships that could enable better participation in the future.
- It was recognized that the process is complex. An example was shared where Whidbey Homeless Coalition attempted to submit an application, but it came in blank and the deadline had passed to resubmit.

NEXT MEETING: October 24, 2018