

ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) EXECUTIVE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

October 24, 2018

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
Bill Oakes, IRTPO Executive Director
Mohammad Mostfavinassab, Port of Coupeville Commissioner
Mike Nortier, Island Transit Exec. Dir
Jay Drye, WSDOT

Members not in Attendance

Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Jackie Henderson, Island Transit
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Robert Severns, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Brian Tyhuis, NAS Whidbey

Other Attendees

Connie Bowers, Assistant County Engineer
Thera Black, SCJ Consulting
Stacy Clauson, WSDOT Public Transportation
Sherrye Wyatt, Tourism

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

May Action Items:

- Update website with final agenda and minutes
- Send Consolidated Grant Rankings to WSDOT, Public Transportation
- Send 2019 RTIP to WSDOT /update STIP
- Send IRTPO Board agenda recommendations to WA Transportation Commission
- Send award letter to project manager for Central Whidbey Bicycle Route

Meeting started at 10:00am

Actions:

- **Agenda:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Minutes of September 26rd 2018 Meeting:** Motion approved, all in favor
- **Meeting Schedule for December:** Motion to cancel meeting on December 26th was approved, all in favor
- **Consolidated Grant Grading:** Motion to approve the Transportation Equity Committee's Consolidated Grant project ranking and grading recommendations was approved, all in favor.
- **Regional TIP:** Motion to Approve the IRTPO 2019 Regional Transportation Improvement Program as presented was approved, all in favor. (note, this approval also formalized the award for the WA-07858 Central Whidbey Bicycle Tour Route)

Meeting Schedule through End of 2018

- The Board considered availability for the November and December meetings of the IRTPO and decided to cancel the December meeting.

Consolidated Grant Rankings

- A presentation was made that summarized the Consolidated Grant activities for Island Region, the scoring and ranking process by the Transportation Equity Committee and projects details.
- Comments on process:
 - It was emphasized that more effort by the IRTPO to encourage participation by organizations and to support applicants was needed.
 - Improvements in participation by eligible scoring organizations, and encouraging accurate scoring were noted as important targets.
 - It was recognized that the IRTPO is still engaged in many firsts, such as developing its first Human Services Transportation Plan, which limited more overt participation in grant-support activities.
 - There was discussion about vehicle electrification. Island Transit noted that electrification did not reduce costs at this point, and their primary benefits are for emissions.
 - Barriers to service for Stanwood-Camano area were discussed. It was noted that the Health Care Authority would be the organization to consult regarding better alignment of funding to the geographic zone in question.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program

- A project grant fund allocation schedule and project descriptions were reviewed for the IRTPO 2019 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).
- The board was largely familiar with the projects on the RTIP.
- One project was discussed: WA-07858 Central Whidbey Bicycle Tour Route
 - This project went through a grant review process in 2015. However, with dissolution of the Skagit-Island RTPO, the project did not have a formal board to pronounce the award. Subsequently, the project was approved by the IRTPO for the 2016 and 2017 RTIPs, though its history was not discussed at those times. The Board was asked to formally approve the project during the adoption of the 2019 RTIP.
 - It was noted that approval of this year's RTIP, with the project in place and knowledge of its history, would be taken as a formal approval of the project award.

Washington Transportation Commission Visit

- The IRTPO Board discussed a draft agenda from the Washington Transportation Commission. The discussion was aided by a recommended agenda reviewed by the TAC and map displaying recommended tour sites. Board feedback included:
 - Reducing the number of presenters
 - Emphasizing the common themes across speakers such as weaving Camano Island issues into the discussions.
 - Having pre-handouts for Commission members to consider as they journey to Oak Harbor.
 - Having summary handouts for tour locations.
 - A desire to show regionally significant projects
 - Communicating the need for cities to intensify infill without funding for transportation improvements

- Expressing the challenges from needing gateway improvements, while not owning gateways.
- Showing need to:
 - Capture the challenges of peak tourism that are hidden during the Commission's visit.
 - Capture the influence of freight
 - Overcome the electric vehicle infrastructure funding barrier

Regional Transportation Plan

- Thera Black of SCJ Alliance presented Island Regional Transportation Plan updates
- Thera emphasized the central role the IRTPO can take as a lead for studies that will inform system owner operators, including: Collecting key origin/destination data for informed decision making, studying how performance measures figure in to the IRTPO plan and investigating the potential for a South Whidbey transit base.
- Specific board direction was requested regarding inclusion of performance measures in the current plan or studying the need for particular measures in future plan updates. The board was understood to support studying performance measures at this time. It was noted that some measures could be adopted by reference, with no increased demand on IRTPO capacity.

WSDOT Presentation

- Jay Drye of WSDOT NW Region provided an overview of transportation that tied funding streams such as the gas tax, to project delivery. Highlights:
 - 70% of gas tax tied to debt service by 2027

NEXT MEETING: November 28, 2018
December meeting cancelled