

ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) EXECUTIVE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

November 28, 2018

Executive Board Members in Attendance:

Member Attendance List

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Tim Callison, Mayor, City of Langley
Molly Hughes, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Steve Powers, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Bill Oakes, IRTPO Executive Director
Mohammad Mostfavinassab, Port of Coupeville Commissioner
Jackie Henderson, Island Transit
Todd Carlson, WSDOT
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Brian Tyhuis, NAS Whidbey

Other Attendees

Connie Bowers, Assistant County Engineer
Janet St Clair, Island County Commissioner Elect
Keith Higman, Island County Public Health
Laura Luginbill, Island County Public Health
Patricia Love, City of Stanwood Planning

Members not in Attendance

Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Todd Morrow, Island Transit Exec. Dir

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

Meeting started at 11:00am

May Action Items:

- Update website with final agenda and minutes
- Prepare proposal action for IRTPO associate membership invite
- Research public health / public works partnership for special needs transportation

Actions:

- **Agenda:** Motion approved, all in favor.
- **Minutes of October 24rd 2018 Meeting:** Motion approved, all in favor

North Sound Transportation Alliance

- Annual legislative forum for North Sound Transportation Alliance was announced:
 - December 14, 9am -12pm
 - Everett Station (*corrected from Skagit Station announced at meeting*)
 - Discusses NSTA priority initiatives identified through NSTA workshops: Ferries, Transit, Health & Transportation

Regional Transportation Plan

- Progress on the IRTPO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was reviewed:
 - A meeting with WSDOT, Island Transit, Island County, Oak Harbor, and the IRTPO discussed circulation strategies for WSDOT corridors as input to Regional Transportation Plan. Questions addressed:
 - Where to put roundabouts?

- Should there be more turn pockets?
 - Restricted turns?
- The meeting did not identify specific improvement types or locations, but helped show the need for additional discussion. New information was presented:
 - Shoulders for SR 20 at Deception Pass in Parks ROW (Discover Pass?)
 - SR 532 from Camano to I-5 under Mt. Baker Region administration
- It was noted for the Board that the RTP needs to coordinate between IRTPO, Parks and WSDOT for strategic planning targets at Deception Pass and between IRTPO, WSDOT and the City of Stanwood for targets involving SR 532. The new information indicated the need to extend the RTP development window for additional coordination to take place.
- For the TAC meeting, an expanded invite added additional Stakeholders. Attendees interacted with a huge Island Region map to identify areas of concern and opportunities. The following were noted for the Board:
 - Many new or expanded economic, land use and funding considerations and regional opportunities were identified through that brainstorm effort
 - Meeting input was summarized in TAC minutes, which will be merged with the current strategic opportunities matrix.
 - A second meeting is targeted to take place on Camano side

Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) Visit

- The outcome of the WSTC visit was reviewed for members who were not in attendance:
 - WSTC members attended a 4 hour tour highlighting a variety of transportation issues, opportunities, and successes on Whidbey. Mayor Callison, Jay Drye and Brian Wood attended to provide background on the sites. The tour benefited from Island Transit's comfortable bus, our driver, Mike's, operational skill and coordination by Nick Pinch.
 - A tour of Nichol's Bros was a highlight. The site was chosen given its status as a critical boat building asset to support the Washington State Ferries long range plan. It was noted for the Board that a similar tour for IRTPO members would be valuable.
 - IRTPO members, staff, NSTA, WSDOT, WSF, NAS Whidbey and other community interest leaders gave a full day of informative presentations to the WSTC and Secretary of Transportation.
 - Overall, the messages were positive, but also highlighted our regional challenges and opportunities.
 - Attendees provided a networking opportunity for our RTP Consultant, Thera Black, and served as a transportation 101 course for those who were able to attend the full meeting including our Mayors and out Economic Development Council and tourism coordinators.
 - The differences between the two islands and the challenges that a lack of connection induces, were strongly highlighted.
 - Ferries Director Amy Scarton spoke to the need for WSF to look at partnerships to address terminal parking and specifically called out Port of South Whidbey's/Tulalip Tribe's project in Mukilteo. This is the first time we are publicly hearing such specificity.
 - Secretary Millar informed our region that the Volkswagen Settlement has provided an avenue for funding of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, addressing a gap that was not covered by federal funding.

- Although the WSTC visit was not optimally timed and required significant staff and stakeholder effort to make it happen, however that effort identified additional information for our RTP, uncovered new potential partnerships, and invested our stakeholders in Regional Planning so in the end there was much that was gained from the endeavor.
- The Commissioners gave us high praise for our tour and presentations, noting in particular the strong cooperative spirit among our regional partners.

HSTP/TEC -- IRTPO / Public Health Coordination

- The Board heard a proposal for a potential partnership between Island County Public Health and Public Works to better address special needs transportation. It was noted that overlap exists between the work efforts of the IRTPO and Health Department's Assessment and Communities Program. Both agencies produce a plan that addresses transportation needs for vulnerable populations:
 - IRTPO: Human Services Transportation Plan
 - Assessment & Communities: Community Health Improvement Plan
- It was noted that the IRTPO has an extensive and diverse set of duties under RCW 47.80, but strong ambitions for addressing the transportation needs of vulnerable populations. Despite innovative strategies such as establishing a standing Transportation Equity Committee (TEC), capacity rather than funding presents a barrier to efficient planning and implementation. Board members were reminded of prior TEC committee and Board discussions that noted:
 - Human Services Transportation Plans have generally been focused on satisfying the requirements of the Consolidated Grant Program. However, they could do more than that, especially given the effort put into its development:
 - Provide a community resource for understanding issues and where to look for more information
 - Hold project ideas that fit both under consolidated grants and other funding sources.
 - Identify planning work items such as targeted workshops and outreach efforts to cover gaps in current plans—essentially implementation, beyond consolidated grant scoring.
- Assessment and Communities Program Director, Laura Luginbill sees a potential opportunity to share funding and staffing to address common goals. WSTC member, Hester Serebrin, is very interested in such a model, which also aligns with recommendations from the North Sound Transportation Alliance's 2017 Health & Transportation workshop.
- Current discussion do not envision a full position, but noted that a staff person charged with addressing special transportation needs could:
 - Facilitate meetings of the TEC (on Whidbey & Camano)
 - Maintain the TEN
 - Be the point of contact and information disseminator for special needs transportation concerns
 - Participate in NSTA Health & Transportation efforts
 - Participate in newly formed North Counties Transportation Coalition
 - Attend (or speak at) community meetings (Opportunity Council for example) where the focus is on transportation
 - Work with mobility coordination staff at key transit providers to stay abreast of developments affecting vulnerable populations
 - Act as a grant liaison/coordinator/resource for non-profits
 - Implement plan initiatives (such as outreach to non-English speaking populations)

- Be a staff equity consultant for public works transportation projects.
- The Board highlighted the benefits of collaboration and expressed interest in developing this idea further.

City of Stanwood – Potential IRTPO Associate Member Invitation

- The Board was informed that IRTPO staff have become increasingly aware of the close relationship that exists between Camano Island and the City of Stanwood
- One aspect of that relationship concerns vulnerable populations. During the development of Island's HSTP staff responded to the need to coordinate with Stanwood Senior and Community Center staff who serve all ages of Camano residents. Accordingly, this Board approved having some of the staff from those organizations sit on our Transportation Equity Committee.
- A presentation was made highlighting a proposal to offer Associate (non-voting) IRTPO membership to the City of Stanwood and showing the many relationships between the two areas that recommend that action.
- Patricia Love, City of Stanwood Community Development Director, spoke to the Board about the strong community ties between Stanwood and Camano and the city's interest in this proposal. Patricia and/or the new city administrator Jennifer Olsen could serve as liaison.
- Board feedback was very favorable to an offer of Associate Membership and staff were directed to develop an action item for the next meeting.

Senator Bailey

- Senator Bailey spoke about the importance of bringing communities together such as Camano and Stanwood to solve common issues. She highlighted the important work between Mukilteo and South Whidbey as a great example of working together.
- The senator indicated a desire to hear more about how we will address our aging communities with transportation.

WSDOT

- WSDOT is in active discussion with the Samish Indian Nation regarding a potential roundabout at Campbell Lake Road and SR 20. The tribe plans to seek funding.
- Todd discussed the need to look at strategic management of increasingly busy two-lane highways, given the increased risk for movements such as left turns. WSDOT hopes to see a strategic plan in the next year that identifies the best locations for roundabouts so they are not overused, but improve circulation and safety overall.
- The Banta Rd roundabout project was discussed and it was noted that traffic impacts will be significant, but the project is not expected to involve rerouting.
- Freeland improvements were discussed, and a new crossing at Woodard, with a rapid flashing beacon was highlighted. Also a flashing cars-turning-ahead sign will be installed for Scott Road's intersection with SR 525. Todd notes that the signs cut collisions in half.

New items

- Island Transit selected a new Executive Director. Todd Morrow was the unanimous choice and he will start December 10th.

NEXT MEETING: January 26, 2018
December meeting cancelled