

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 12, 2012**

Attendance List

Arnie Peterschmidt, City of Oak Harbor
Bob Monize, Citizen
Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor
Challis Stringer, City of Langley
Connie Bowers, Island County
Don Meehan, Citizen
Donna Keeler, RTPO Staff
Gabe Philips, SCOG
Greg Cane, Town of Coupeville
Kerri Woehler, WSDOT
Marshall Bronson, Port Districts
Mike Morton, Citizen
Roy Daniel, Island Transit
Tom Stacey, WSDOT

The meeting began at 1:05 PM. Donna asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Marshall moved to approve, seconded by Challis. Mike and Arnie said they did not attend the November meeting and their names should be taken off the attendance list. The minutes were approved with the noted changes.

Concurrency Intersection Analysis Presentation (Handout)

A power point presentation was given by Tom Stacey (lead), Gabe Philips, Kerri and Donna on the status of the Whidbey Island Corridor Intersection Analysis (CIA) work to date. The presentation encompassed various intersections facing level of service "issues." Tom gave an overview of the types of activities included in the analysis, end results and the schedule. He explained there are over 100 "T" or 4-way intersections on the Island and the goal is to determine what needs to be done to bring the busier intersections to LOS standards. The analysis does not take into consideration land use planning or other factors. Tom said it is important to note if one vehicle waits more than 35 seconds during the peak hour, the intersection fails. Ultimately it comes back to safety; there is a correlation between excessive delay and people taking chances.

Gabe displayed tables with detailed findings on no-build and build-out scenarios for key intersections, followed with a discussion on intersection improvement alternatives evaluated to date and other alternatives that should be considered. Arnie asked about driveways and Tom said they were not included as driver pressure from behind is generally not encountered with driveways. The counts represent a snapshot in time and the analysis figured in 1% growth rate out to 2030. At such a rate, failures will occur. Members had various questions on roundabouts and other options and the availability of future funding. Don Meehan asked at what point should transit and other alternatives be factored into the analysis, which led to a discussion on policies regarding concurrency management planning. After further discussion, Tom said the project team will return late spring with a final draft report/presentation.

Regional Priority Transportation List (Handout)

Gabe gave a presentation on the Forward Washington website www.forwardwashington.net highlighting the Island and Skagit Regional Priority Projects. Donna said the projects on the site came from the former "top 20" list which has been updated to include the list the TAC reviewed and amended in late 2011. The site is available for anyone to view and is intended to serve as a tool for State Legislators when prioritizing transportation funding.

Mukilteo Multimodal Project Update

Donna said she is now attending meetings with a "tank farm" committee on the Mukilteo Multimodal Project. The Draft EIS will be available for public review in late January and a presentation will be made to the Policy Board on February 22nd. WSDOT/WSF will be seeking comments on the document. Staff will email out a link on the DEIS when it becomes available.

Update on Proposal by South Whidbey Port District to Assist with a Passenger Inter-island Ferry.

Donna gave an overview of a discussion by the Policy Board on a letter sent to the County Commissioners from the South Whidbey Port District dated November 8, 2011. The letter expressed interest in assisting with the creation of a passenger-only ferry service to connect Langle, Camano Island, Coupeville and Oak Harbor. Donna said the RTPO directed staff to prepare a letter to the County recommending that a "place-holder" be included in the Shoreline Master Plan update to include a feasibility study for ferry inter-island ferry service for passengers and vehicles. The study should include an analysis of potential landing sites on Camano Island.

Marshall said the Coupeville Port District looked into providing passenger ferry service between Coupeville and Camano Island and found it challenging to identify a suitable landing site on Camano Island. Mike added he worked on this issue for 20 years and from his experience feels it will require a government subsidy to make it work. A few years ago he worked on a summer demonstration project in partnership with the Mosquito Fleet, Island Transit and other key entities. At the last minute the Mosquito Fleet pulled out and the project was abandoned.

New Items:

Kerri discussed the Governor's "State of the State" address which included a discussion on long-term transportation needs. In the past decade funding for roads was transferred to ferries in order not to shut down ferry runs. This provided a short-term fix which is no longer sustainable. The Governor said the situation has become dire enough that the State is looking into eliminating some of the ferry runs. Kerri said she would email out a link on the speech.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM (?)

Next TAC Meeting: Thursday, February 9, at 1:00 PM.