

MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 12, 2012

Attendance List

Arnie Peterschmidt, City of Oak Harbor
Bill Oakes, Island County
Bob Monize, Citizen
Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor
Challis Stringer, City of Langley
Don Meehan, Citizen
Donna Keeler, RTPO Staff
Greg Cane, Town of Coupeville
Kerri Woehler, WSDOT
Mike Morton, Citizen
Pete Schrum, Island Transit
Randy Young, Henderson Young and Co.
Roy Daniel, Island Transit
Troy Davis, Island County

The meeting began at 1:00 PM. Challis moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2012 TAC meeting. Mike seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Transportation Concurrency White Paper – Discussion of Strategies with Randy Young

Randy Young led a discussion of a 16 draft strategies distributed to members prior to the meeting by email. Randy explained the outline of draft strategies is not the policy paper but a work-in-progress. The strategies entail a portion of the policy paper that will identify potential strategies, actions, and/or changes that could be made to transportation concurrency involving highways of statewide significance.

Members asked questions and provided comments on the array of draft strategies. Summary of comments include:

- A “no action” alternative is not necessarily desirable but should be provided as one of the “book-ends” for the paper to provide a perspective on the purpose of the paper - and what can happen if nothing is done.
- Strategy no. 2 (extending time period) is modeled after 10-year impact fees. This merely extends the problem (kicks can down the road) and there is an implication that 6-year TIP do not have to show funding.
- Strategy no. 3, which would change the LOS to reflect the concept that capacity LOS should emphasize the efficient use of resources (example of extra bedroom in a home for two weeks of year for guests). This approach is similar to the strategy the ferries have adopted and where the state wants to go. Public safety (risks taken) and education need to be considered.
- Under proposed administrative changes, a suggestion was made to limit the idea of “zones” to contributions in trips (where trips are going/contributing – by development.
- Proposed strategy no. 6 provides more local control.
- Strategy no. 8 does not necessarily solve the problem.
- Strategy no. 9 is an important bookend. A 4-lane highway is not desirable on Whidbey Island. WSDOT is concerned lowering LOS on scenic byways may trump public safety.
- An engineering solution should be added to the mix: building projects for adding capacity. This solution may not be environmentally or economically feasible – but should be part of the discussion.
- The Policy Board has two (general) avenues to take: Administrative or Legislative. With administrative changes, the TAC can be more engaged in implementing changes.

- Any changes will likely impact Island Transit.
- Final result may likely be a combination of strategies.

There was general agreement that each strategy should not stand alone and there will likely be an overlap in the final document; however some strategies (e.g. no. 16) clearly stand alone.

Randy provided a quick review of a handout on Reasons to Change Concurrency and Reasons to Keep Concurrency. This will also be a part of the paper. Members discussed inviting city/town council members to the Policy Board meeting when the proposed strategies are carried forward.

Members were asked to email Randy and Donna with additional input/ideas. Randy specifically needed input on strategies that should be kept and thrown out. No final recommendations were made. The TAC agreed to continue the conversation on the concurrency white paper at their next meeting on May 10th.

Surface Transportation Update

Donna said there was little to report on a new transportation package. For now, the Island RTPO should expect the same amount of funding (\$900,000 to \$1,000,000) for surface transportation projects this year.

Paladin Software Discussion

With the allocation of \$190,000 for RTPO's to use for transportation projects, Donna is going to ask if jurisdictions within RTPO's can "piggy-back" on this effort without additional cost. A sub-committee has been formed within the RTPO's to work on this project and staff will have more information at a future meeting.

Farmhouse Gang Kiosk Project:

Staff handed out an information sheet titled "2012 North Sound Connecting Communities Trip Planner Project." This is a potential project the Farmhouse gang is researching to improve regional mobility by public transportation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM

Next TAC Meeting: May 10, 2012