

MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 13, 2014

Attendance List

Arnie Peterschmidt, City of Oak Harbor
Bob Monize, District 3 Citizen Rep.
Brian Wood, District 2 Citizen Rep.
Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor
Connie Bowers, Island County
Doug Cox, RTPO Staff
Greg Cane, Town of Coupeville
Nick Pinch, Island Transit
Pete Schrum, Island Transit
Stan Berryman, City of Langley

Members not in Attendance

Brad Johnson, Island County
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Don Meehan, District 1 Citizen Rep.

Doug began the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Doug asked if there was a motion to approve the February 13th meeting minutes. Bob made a motion to approve, with Greg seconding. The motion carried.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Selection Criteria:

The group spent the bulk of the meeting discussing their experiences with the recent round of TAP project selections, particularly as to how the scoring criteria worked. Arnie expressed that the criteria seemed to be geared towards projects that improve conditions for motor vehicle and freight travel, and are not particularly useful for ranking the sort of alternative-mode projects that the program funds.

The committee came up with several key themes that they would like to see reflected in future rounds of TAP project selection, which is anticipated for 2016. They suggested looking at the County's 2006 Non-Motorized Trails Plan as a starting point for developing some specific objectives for TAP projects. Particular themes discussed included:

- reducing conflicts between modes (not the same as "safety" per se)
- improving connectivity (between modes, to/from activity centers, and filling in "missing links")
- reducing barriers (including perceived / mental barriers)
- Measuring impacts of proposed projects by expected change to its locations' "walk score"
- Scenic Corridors (scenery is one of our region's most valuable assets)

The group also discussed whether portions of the funds should be set aside for feasibility studies and for actual project construction. There was no consensus on this issue.

Revised scoring criteria based on this discussion will be developed by RTPO staff and brought to future Island and Skagit TAC meetings for further refinement. Ultimately, each TAC will recommend the proposed revisions to their respective Policy Boards for consideration.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) call for projects for 2015 and beyond:

While the Island sub-region aims to develop a 4-to-6 year STP workplan, currently there is only about 1 ½ years' worth of projects identified and another call for projects is needed. Doug proposed a schedule for this next round of STP project selections. The TAC would need to propose any revisions to the scoring criteria at their April 10th meeting, and any changes the committee recommends would then be brought to the Policy Board for discussion at their April 23rd meeting and for approval at their May 28th meeting. The call for projects would be issued shortly after May 28th, with applications due in early July. Applicants would present their projects to the TAC at their July 10th meeting, and the TAC would score the projects at their August 14th meeting. The TAC's project recommendations would be taken to the Policy Board for approval on August 27th.

The committee did not have any objections to this schedule. Brian asked Doug to provide the current scoring criteria well in advance of the next meeting so members have ample time to consider changes they would like to see. Doug provided this via email immediately after the meeting.

Based on recent STP allocations, the Island sub-region expects to receive approximately \$1 Million each year for this program. The goal is for there to be enough project applications to assemble a workplan for the next 4-to-6 years.

New Items

Doug discussed the recent public meetings for the Transportation Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Connie provided status updates for several of the County's current projects.

Doug concluded the meeting with the announcement that the next TAC meeting will take place at the new Island Transit base outside of Coupeville. The meeting will include a tour of the brand-new facility.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Next Regular TAC Meeting: April 10, 2014 at Island Transit's new main base!