

MEETING SUMMARY
Island Region Transportation Planning Organization (IRTPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
August 12, 2021

Member Attendance List

Mathew Lander, Island County Public Works
John Shambaugh, WSDOT
Todd Morrow, Island Transit
Kelly Reipma, Coupeville Public Works
Stan Reeves, Port of South Whidbey
Sherrye Wyatt, Whidbey Scenic Isle Way
Cac Kamack, City of Oak Harbor, Planning
Sharon Sappington, EDC
Randi Perry, Interim PW Dir. City of Langley

Members Not in Attendance

Alex Warner, City of Oak Harbor
Bob Monize, District 3 Citizen Rep
Brian Tyhuis, NAS Whidbey Island
Ed Sewester, Island County Public Works
Don Meehan, District 1 Citizen Rep
Elizabeth Sjoström
Jay Drye, WSDOT
Jennifer Ferguson, City of Stanwood
Megan Harper, Island Transit
Mohammed Mostafavinassab, Port of Coupeville
Nancy Garret, WSDOT
Nick Pinch, Island Transit
Owen Dennison, Town of Coupeville
Patricia Love
Patti Shultz, Coupeville Planning
Pete Schrum, Island Transit
Moini Mehrdad, WSDOT
Shawn Harris, Island Transit
Todd Carlson, WSDOT
Scott Chaplin, Mayor of Langley

Facilitator

Nikki Davis, Interim IRTPO Planner

Meeting began at 1:02 PM

Introductions from committee members

Introductions from Nikki Davis to TAC committee. Nikki informed TAC of the new Assistant County Engineer for Island County.

1. Approval of Minutes

Todd Morrow motion to approve minutes. John S. second, minutes approved

2. Data Collection & Analysis Project

Randi Perry asked for overview.

Nikki asked John S. to give an overview.

John provided an overview of the data and analysis project. Two different projects that Ferh & Peer are working on with data collection with several components to the project including freight John most familiar with the SR 532 corridor. Project is spread around Island.

John spoke to the scoping of the SR 532 project 1-5 to Terry's corner that the TAC has weighed in on. Doing a baseline assessment, very high level. To find if there are any existing problems that need to be addressed, broken into four (4) different issues

One issue that keep hearing about from public and Island County Board of Commission the commute time (all pre-COVID) that from Camano Island to I-5. Other three areas island Gateway between Terry's corner and Stanwood, larger area, existing commercial development along the 532 corridor, no straight system, and working with Island County planning on this. Stanwood is undertaking study within their downtown, there is the area east of Stanwood, located 74th, 60 and 64th streets around Hagen and the high school and

anything between Stanwood and I-5, taking a look at traffic operations and safety in that corridor. Other thing wanted to do Island County identified two project to look at transit and multimodal around gateway. Just getting started on scoping. John has reached out to Todd Morrow about how to measure transit, other transit, Snohomish County, Skagit at park and ride lot. Looking at what metrics and how to measure. There is a new transit system starting up for senior citizens that may weigh in. Timeline, scoping meeting with stakeholders in possibly Sept. to help with plan, kickoff meeting in October, possible finishing up in Jan. High level to find issues, if none than we know, if we find some we can break it up into sections. Weejo data platform will be used and Streetlight will be used to gather data.

3. Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) discussion

TAC members were provided amendments.

Nikki asked if anyone had any edits or comments.

Todd Morrow mentioned that projects added #17 & #18 had been added and he was glad to see them included. Wished there was more detail. #18 still needs more analysis and will be provided when it can be.

Nikki question the table not included "S" and "P". How do we know if the table is selected projects?

John S said that the table is the projects selected. John the two projects to note, Clinton project ad will go out in Nov.2021, Race to Whelcher widening, in the ROW phase, moving to CN phase after they secure initial funding.

John provided Nikki with numbers that were in the federal request, for different numbers, not much but some. Matthew Lander, ICPW, will update TIP with those numbers and provide to have STIP updated.

4. Discuss Long Range Improvement Projects (corridor/trail improvements)

Nikki mentioned that the Executive Board has asked the TAC to start considering adding regional benefit projects to the update.

John mentioned there were possibly some corridor or trail projects that maybe the committee can think about.

John – clarity Susan asking to RTP update to include not only plans but also projects i.e., road widening, new roads, generally included. Not that planning cannot be in plan but start thinking about priorities that are regional as a whole that can be put into the plan. Can be transit stations, trails.

Todd – other piece that could be advocated for if there is funding opportunities maybe through the state. Maybe a new state infrastructure plan or in the future with federal funding opportunities as well where these are things that can significantly impact us as a whole region or county. Of course Island Transit has a couple but there are others. Really trying to transform service to zero emission and in order to do that they will need a charging station in the south end of island. As we move to electric vehicles we will need to charge throughout the day because of routes and Whidbey Island being so long. Current battery technology won't sustain as they move about island. This a significant regionally because as people move about the county to get to mainland to surrounding counties including Jefferson County. From Island Transit, these are projects that can be considered.

Sharon – grants coming out from congress – transit orientation development grants. John informed that they are tied to high density, not even Bellingham can meet the density. Unfortunately too strict and only applies to a few cities.

John reminded that it is time to hire consultant to do some amendments.

Cac – asked if the suggestion is to think about adding actual projects.

John – yes that is the more normal, generally include not only plan but also projects. This is a way to advocate for projects especially for state and federal funding, it is good to have them identified in the program.

Cac- hard to fund a project if you don't have a plan.

John – it is a requirement for local agencies to have projects in local plan to include in regional plan.

Cac – from OH stand point the SR 20 project, and related study is in the regional plan, any trail connects or enhancement will come from that planning effort to give ideas both state and local. Hard for local agencies to fund regional projects.

John – if a regional project is included in a local plan, it does not mean the local has to pay for it. It says the region collective thinks it's a good idea.

Cac – it can be hard, example, all the roundabout projects in the city, the city is not carrying that funding so it is hard to include in the CIP, hard to balance budget. Sure it can be shared but the total project cost will come from somewhere else.

John gave example – it is common to have these kinds of projects, it doesn't mean the local has to pay it. Transit station south Whidbey, we all think it's a good idea but we wouldn't be paying directly. John will provide an example to make it help.

5. RTP/HSTP Combined update for 2022

Nikki mentioned that Susan had left a note that the DRAFT update is due no later than Sept 2022. Said to keep in mind for the TAC as we want to add project.

Nikki found RFQ completed by Susan.

Cliff Hall has provided approval to post. Looking through past EB meetings to ensure they have approved. Cannot post until I know for sure they have. Want to make sure everyone has seen it. Asked if everyone has seen?

Randi – said she had not seen it.

Nikki said she will share.

John – said no one has seen it.

Nikki says she will share with TAC.

Nikki - looking back at last month's EB meeting they did approve the UPWP. I know it wasn't on agenda but wanted to make sure TAC knew the update.

6. Roundtable

Nikki reminded that the RFP won't be sent today because the network is down will get to team ASAP.

Sherry – busy season, talking about for a while, moving forward with a reimagining and strategic planning, with outside support and this committee will be part of that conversation because transportation is so important, how we move people around safely and how visitors impact the local landscape. Be prepared to have conversation early next year. Hearing a lot for a need to be sensitive to the local people and the quality of life, so this process includes more than transportation and thinking holistically and how short term rental impact

housing, and why do we have a shortage of workers and how can tourism play role in helping. Giving heads up on that. Other thing quick little 25 hike for Whidbey and Camano Island talking to folks from getting to the water's, edge; picking 25 hikes that are less known and not as popular to try and direct people to places that are less discovered. There are things we will be funding with our own budget, not originally seeking partners but anyone can be involved. Also met the new Executive Director of the Cascade loop, Michelle Glass (?) lives on Whidbey Island.

Cac – lot of housing projects ready to get started. Short staffed with vacations and open positions. Spread thin a little bit, hoping to regroup. Alex is not here today, Cac will be gone for the next couple of months, not here for Sept and Oct meeting. It may be why you don't hear from OH. Will send contact information, Alex should be back before end of the month. Should be able to get information form OH. The director is really open.

Todd – updating transit development plan – out for review hoping board will approve by sept. Primary focus is route analysis trying to figure out the needs as a transit agency. Once implemented including possible church service, late night service or on demand. Analysis of what zero emissions vehicle is need to provide service, and then we can buy those buses and installing that infrastructure. Getting ready to go out to bid to install solar panels in Coupeville and Camano Island to help with sustainability.

Stan – STBG funds obligated in July. RFQ ad last week, statement of quals by this month, contract for PE end of Oct.

Kelly R – finished overlay program, streets look fantastic got paperwork for next year's program.

Sharon – Nothing directly related to transit beyond more than willing to advocate for funding or policy. Internally to push new programs around young entrepreneurship, young Whidbey, stepping up data and research capabilities.

Nikki – Island County recap, hired Assistant County Engineer, looking to replace transportation planner, hired new Asst. Director will begin soon. We have had a little turn over. Appreciate the time to learn. With that, unless there is anything else we can wrap it up

Cac – thank you Nikki for stepping in.

Nikki – my pleasure. Randi welcome to the team.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM

Next Regular TAC Meeting: September 9th, 2021