

MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 11, 2014

Attendance List

Arnie Peterschmidt, City of Oak Harbor
Bob Monize, District 3 Citizen Rep.
Brad Johnson, Island County
Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor
Connie Bowers, Island County
Curt Gordon, Port of South Whidbey
Doug Cox, RTPO Staff
Gabe Philips, SCOG Staff
Greg Cane, Town of Coupeville
John Shambaugh, WSDOT
Pete Schrum, Island Transit
Stan Berryman, City of Langley

Members not in Attendance

Brian Wood, District 2 Citizen Rep.
Don Meehan, District 1 Citizen Rep.
Nick Pinch, Island Transit

The meeting began at 1:06 PM.

Bob made a motion to approve the July 10th meeting minutes. Arnie and Greg seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Skagit / Island RTPO Proposed TIP Policies and TAP Selection Process

Gabe led a discussion on SCOG's proposed changes to the Regional TIP policies and to the TAP project selection process.

A couple of key changes to the TIP policies were proposed. The most noteworthy would be a requirement that projects must be listed in the local TIP (or CIP) in order to be eligible for regionally-managed grant funds. The intent is to eliminate the opportunity for a project to be prioritized at the regional level, only to have it later determined not to be a local priority. Connie explained that this requirement would make it even more challenging for the Island sub-Region, where there are an insufficient number of projects eligible for these funds as it is. Requiring that projects are on the local TIP or CIP prior to submitting an application for regionally-managed grant funds would mean that every possible project that may be considered would need to be identified too far in advance. Listing them would also send a message to residents that these projects were in the queue, when in fact they would only be potential projects at that point and be entirely contingent on receiving the regionally-managed grant funds. The group also discussed the need to improve project tracking, including regular reports on obligation and de-obligation status for each agency.

The group then discussed SCOG's recommendation to refine the TAP selection process. Under their proposal, the scoring criteria would be changed to something entirely objective, which would in turn eliminate the need for the projects to be ranked and prioritized by the respective sub-regions before being taken to the project selection subcommittee. TAC members were skeptical that there could

ever be criteria so objective that everyone scoring a project would arrive at the same score. The specific criteria have not yet been developed. They also stressed the importance of scoring and ranking their sub-regions' projects separately before the project selection subcommittee. Doing so allows an opportunity for members to become familiar with *all* of the projects in their sub-region.

Connie made a motion to recommend moving the proposed policy documents, subject to the changes that were discussed, to the Island sub-RTPO Policy Board. Bob seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

New Items

Doug asked if there were questions about the current STP call for projects. He clarified for Curt that the Port of South Whidbey is an eligible agency and encouraged him to apply for funds for a passenger ferry study.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM

Next Regular TAC Meeting: October 9, 2014