

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 9, 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
Kerri Woehler, WSDOT
Marshall Bronson, Port Districts
Pete Schrum, Island Transit
Roy Daniel, Island Transit
Troy Davis, Island County

The meeting began at 1:00 PM. Donna asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Bob moved to approve, seconded by Roy. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Proposed Revisions to RTPO Bylaws (first review)

Staff distributed a copy of the current bylaws with hand-written edits (proposed). Donna said the bylaws have not been amended since they were adopted in 1995 it was time to make a few minor updates. Most notable changes would be to clarify the participation of Port Districts on the Policy Board and the TAC to allow the ports to alternate every two years. Other revisions included specifying a time of year for election of officers on the Policy Board. Marshall recommended having elections in March to give new members some time to become familiar with the Policy Board before nominating someone. TAC members agreed. Other changes including adding a new task for the TAC to review and make recommendations on the Regional TIP and adding appropriate/updated RCW references. Donna asked members to email her additional suggestions and she will bring a revised copy for further review at the next TAC meeting.

Additions / Revisions to the Regional Priority Transportation List (Handout)

An information sheet from WSDOT on the SR 532 / Davis Slough Bridge Replacement was distributed to members. Kerri said this project would replace the existing bridge over Davis Slough with a higher and wider bridge to address flooding issues and to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. This is an important project as it is the only access on to Camano Island. WSDOT would like to see the Davis Slough Bridge project added to the Regional Priority List.

Kerri explained that the proposed Davis Slough Bridge was not put on the Regional Priority List originally because it is not considered a mobility project. To date WSDOT has received funding for preliminary engineering and right of way acquisition. Over fourteen million (\$14.7) is still needed for construction. Bob said it is a rare occurrence when there is water under the bridge and asked if WSDOT has considered less costly solutions. Kerri discussed some of the environmental constraints they need to take into account that contribute to the cost. Roy asked how the new bridge will tie into the existing Mark-Clark Bridge and Kerri said she will bring more information to the next meeting. Don and others commented that the price tag seems excessive and asked how WSDOT addresses such concern when they come from the local RTPO. Kerri discussed how WSDOT figures out estimated costs which tend to be conservative until they undergo a value engineering study.

Marshall asked if we can wait until we get more information before providing a recommendation. Donna said yes, but if it's not on the list, the State Legislature will not likely fund it. Don brought up a topic discussed at the last meeting on how transit and multimodal transportation is addressed when determining regional priorities. He suggested perhaps this type of analysis needs to be done before adding more projects. Donna agreed this is an important issue and would like to see it addressed when the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan for Island County is updated in the near future, along with the Regional Transportation Plan. There is also a potential to revise the County's concurrency management program to consider

transit, connections and other multimodal features as a few other communities have done such as Bellingham. Cac added that much of what we are doing now is tied to the past. In order to change mindsets we need to slowly build momentum in the community.

Challis expressed concerns that legislative decisions to fund projects from the list may be political and not necessarily reflect the priorities of our region. There was a brief discussion on Deception Pass Bridge where volume, capacity issues and future planning was discussed. Marshall moved to add the SR 532 / Davis Slough Bridge to the Priority List which was seconded by Bob. The group concurred.

Mukilteo Multimodal Project Update

Donna distributed copies of the Mukilteo Multimodal Project Community Guide and gave a brief overview of the proposed alternatives and timeline for public comment. She added that a meeting has been set between Island County / Port and City of Langley representatives and officials from the City of Mukilteo to discuss the project. Challis said she plans to attend the meeting and added she noted a second dock is not included in the proposed alternatives.

White Paper Update:

Staff reported that Randy Young is still gathering information and undertaking interviews for the white paper on transportation concurrency. The TAC should expect to see a draft document in April or May. Cac asked what follow-up steps will be taken following the white paper and suggested having a discussion on the topic at a future meeting.

New Items:

Donna discussed a proposal by Island Transit to develop Intelligent Communication Systems Architecture for the County in order to be eligible for grants. A current grant allotment from STP-R funds to complete the purchase/implementation of an MDT/AVL system is being held up due to the lack of an ITS architecture. Staff said they are considering options and will report back next month. Don described an issue he encountered with a signal in Oak Harbor that announced an emergency vehicle approaching the intersection, after the emergency vehicle had gone through. Kerri, Cac and Arnie said they will look into it.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM

Next TAC Meeting: TBD