

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
March 15, 2012**

**Attendance List**

Arnie Peterschmidt, City of Oak Harbor  
Bill Oakes, Island County  
Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor  
Challis Stringer, City of Langley  
Don Meehan, Citizen  
Donna Keeler, RTPO Staff  
Kerri Woehler, WSDOT  
Mike Morton, Citizen  
Pete Schrum, Island Transit  
Roy Daniel, Island Transit

The meeting began at 1:10 PM due to last minute change in meeting location to the Dutton House. Donna asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Arnie moved to approve, seconded by Roy. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Proposed Revisions to RTPO Bylaws (second review)**

Members reviewed a draft copy of bylaw revisions. Suggestions for staff included pulling the correct dates of the original adoption and first amendment, timeframes for voting in RTPO Chairs and Vice-Chairs, pulling the original agreement / interlocal for participation in the RTPO, updating Attachment "B" on the STP-R selection process and a few others. As questions came up, Mike provided background information on changes that occurred in the past. Donna said she will bring a (new) revised version to the next meeting in April.

**UPWP Update and Discussion – Identification of Planning Areas**

Donna said that until new Transportation funding package is adopted, RTPO's will likely need to update their UPWP's annually. The next update is due in June. Staff asked for suggestions for identification of new planning areas. Ideas included adding language on efforts to institute a passenger ferry service, adding an "interim design option" for Oak Harbor's roundabout projects and addressing the effects of transit on roads. Staff will work with SCOG (Skagit Council of Governments) on the update and will return with a draft final in April or May.

**Mukilteo Multimodal Update**

A letter was distributed to members with comments from the RTPO Policy Board on the Draft EIS for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project. The letter addresses the need for improved facilities for commuters and recommends a "hybrid" of the Elliot Point Alternative 2 which would flip/reverse the proposed parking area with the vehicle holding area, add overnight parking, and use the property at the corner of SR 525 for a higher and better use to benefit the local community (over employee parking).

**Concurrency Paper Update**

Staff gave a brief update on the progress by Transportation Consultant, Randy Young. Randy has completed most of his research and is compiling a proposed list of strategies to bring to the TAC in April for discussion.

**Surface Transportation Funding Update**

The status of a new Federal transportation bill was briefly discussed. A package was passed by the Senate but had not been approved by the House to date. Staff said it likely that SAFETEA-LU will be extended one more year and to expect the same level of STP-Regional funding as last year (around \$920,000) unless a new package is adopted.

**Paladin Software Discussion**

Donna gave a brief overview of services available from Paladin, the company developing the "Forward Washington" program for RTPO's. A representative from Paladin recently met with County staff to discuss the development of "cut sheets" for road projects that are easily accessible by the public on the internet. If interested, Donna said she could explore

the feasibility of making the program available for all local jurisdictions. The program provides a tool for displaying information about projects.

Bill said there is a problem with on-going costs due to the data being on a "cloud" system. The City of Mukilteo is using the program but while it does a great job at displaying information, it has limited ability to analyze data. Don said WSU launched an online data base which Bill may be interested in checking out. Kerri said WSDOT Local Programs may have suggestions as well. Bill added the County currently develops the TIP in various formats and it would be nice to eventually have it in one program where it can be displayed and analyzed.

Further discussion entailed how projects can be displayed on Paladin, maintenance requirements, and the expectations by the public to have data readily available. Donna said she would get back to the group with more information on partnering with Skagit County and ongoing/long terms costs using the Paladin software program.

#### **Request for transfer of STP-Enhancement Funds (Island Transit)**

Roy gave an overview of a request by Island Transit (see letter dated 03-12-2012), to transfer \$50,000 of STP-E funds allocated for bus shelters to be used towards the new MDT/AVL system. One of the issues Island Transit is facing with the bus shelters is having to conduct environmental review for each location. Mike said Enhancement funds have very specific criteria and we should check to see if a transfer would qualify. Donna said she sent the letter to Harry Haslam and expects to hear back soon.

Members discussed the value in the proposal and Don asked if members would be willing to pre-approve the request, pending approval by Federal Highways. After further discussion members agreed to wait until Staff received confirmation on whether the transfer would qualify.

#### **New Items:**

Staff handed out results (key findings) of the Washington State Transportation Commission Statewide Survey done last year. The survey showed there is strong support for state funding of the ferry system across the state along with a sense of urgency to maintain an effective transportation system.

Donna asked members to let her know of grant resources to continue the Countywide Commute Trip Reduction Program. During the last grant phase, the number of users on rideshareonline.com doubled.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

**Next TAC Meeting: April 12, 2012**