

MEETING SUMMARY
IRTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 13, 2017

Member Attendance List

Christine Boswell-Still, District 2 Citizen Rep.
Don Meehan, District 1 Citizen Rep.
Bob Monize, District 3 Citizen Rep.
Ron Nelson, Island Co. EDC
Brian Tyhuis, NAS Whidbey Island
Stan Berryman, City of Langley
Arnie Peterschmidt, City of Oak Harbor
Tom Stacey, WSDOT
Nathan Howard, Island County Planning

Members not in Attendance

John Shambaugh, WSDOT
Owen Dennison, Town of Coupeville
Mike Nortier, Island Transit Exec. Dir.
Forrest Rambo, Port of Coupeville
Connie Bowers, Island County Public Works
Angi Mozer, Port of South Whidbey
Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor

Facilitator

Brian Wood, IRTPO Staff

The meeting began at 1:05 PM

Action Items:

- Substitute 'may' for 'will' in unanticipated funds policy and correct missing 'that' in policy 5
- Add reference to freight under roads and marine for IRSTS. Also indicate agricultural freight under roads
- Bring bridge repair project to attention of board when taking action. Contact WSDOT NW region to apprise of that agenda item
- Post RTIP Maps to website

Motions

- Approval of March minutes was made

Updates & Action Items (see IRTPO minutes for more details)

- TAC was updated on actions taken and discussion from last Executive Board:
 - EB approved RTIP amendments, which reinstate the Oak Harbor Waterfront Trail project and remove the DeBruyn First Street sidewalk project.
 - EB reviewed the proposed RTIP policies. They took action to approve all policies except number 6. There was discussion regarding policy 6 and a request for a revision to include assigning unanticipated funds to cost overruns on priority projects. Three EB members were interested in reviewing the revision.
 - EB was generally pleased with the Island Regionally Significant Transportation System (IRSTS). The version they reviewed included air fields as discussed at the March TAC. The EB requested additions: sea planes, marine trails, and expansion of "jurisdictions" (spell them out).
 - EB approved Bylaws amendment to include an Ethical Standards article.
 - There was a board member request for help in determining if the Rural or Regional Mobility Grant could be applied to parking improvement projects. The Port of S. Whidbey is working with Tulalip Tribes and the City of Mukilteo to potentially build a temporary lot at the Mukilteo Tank Farm. WSDOT's Public Transportation Division indicated that the Regional Mobility Grant would apply if the project decreases vehicle miles traveled.

- EB would like to invite the following to speak to the board:
 - a Pass Only Ferry operator(s)
 - Charlie from the PSRC
- Reminder: we have been asked to invite WA Transport Commission to discuss WA Transportation Plan with our TAC.
- EB would like a map of electric vehicle charging stations in Island Region.

RTIP Policies Revision

- New comments were received regarding adopted and proposed RTIP policies. An administrative edit to policy 5 was recommended. For the revised policy 6, TAC members felt that the language should allow more flexibility by replacing ‘would’ and ‘will’ with ‘should’ and ‘may’.
- Future policy revisions to increase flexibility were also discussed, primarily the question of whether the policies should provide for reprioritization as needed. Consensus was not apparent in the discussion and a recommendation was to avoid creating a policy until an issue arises that warrants the need.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment

- TAC reviewed amendment proposed for the April Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.
- TAC was reminded of the following:
 - All projects and major project changes within the Island RTPO defined area must be approved through our local process, EB approval.
 - WSDOT projects rarely get turned back by RTPOs, but TAC can provide a good sounding board to determine if a WSDOT amendment warrants EB discussion—even it will ultimately be approved.
- Proposed amendment: Deception Pass Bridge repair project to be completed concurrent with bridge painting projects.
 - Arnie Peterschmidt had personal experience with the bridge inspection that led to the project. He felt that this was an important discussion item due to extensive corrosion and likely traffic disruption.

Island Regionally Significant Transportation System (IRSTS) revision

- The TAC reviewed revisions to the draft regional significance definition: *IRSTS*, and new comments received on that revised document.
- It was recommended that references to freight, including agricultural freight and marine freight be added.
- Additionally, it was recommended that a ‘public benefit’ statement be added to the parking section.

Regional Transportation Plan Data Needs

- A list of data items that inform Regional Transportation Plans (RTP) was reviewed to discuss data needs for developing the Island RTP.
- It was recommended that we evaluate the relevance of most recent modeling efforts to see if that data can be used.
- Island County Planning felt that they could assist with some of the plan data needs.
- Merit of consultants versus interns were discussed. Arnie Peterschmidt noted recent consultant experience with Oak Harbor’s transportation element went very well and did not require inordinate staff time to manage compared to prior efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM

Next Regular TAC Meeting: May 11, 2017