

ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPO POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 28, 2015

Policy Board Members in Attendance:

Fred McCarthy, Mayor, City of Langley
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey
Jill Johnson, RTPO Chair / Island County Commissioner
Marshall Bronson, Port of Coupeville
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Todd Carlson, WSDOT

Members Absent:

Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries
Rick Almberg, Public Transit Benefit Area
Ron Nelson, Economic Development Council
Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Todd Harrison, WSDOT

Also in Attendance:

Doug Cox, RTPO Staff
Ken Graska, Island Transit
Kevin Murphy, Skagit Council of Governments

The Island sub-RTPO Policy Board met in the Island County Commissioners Hearing Room on January 28, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM by Chair Johnson.

Note: To listen to the audio recording of this meeting, go to the Island RTPO web page at:
<http://www.islandcounty.net/publicworks/SkagitIslandRTPO.asp>. Click on "meeting recordings."

Approval of the November 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Marshall Bronson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Price Johnson seconded. The motion passed without discussion.

Chair Johnson reminded the Board that it is time to elect a new chair and vice chair, and offered that it may make sense to wait until the February meeting due to the number of members absent. Commissioner Price Johnson made a motion to select the new chair and vice chair at the February meeting, with Commissioner Hannold seconding. The motion passed with all in favor.

Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) Structure

Kevin Murphy attended the meeting to provide an update on the status of the ongoing conversation pertaining to the future of the SIRTPO. Chair Johnson expressed discontent with how this conversation has gone so far, specifically with how the Skagit Transportation Policy Board (TPB) opted to form a subcommittee of the SIRTPO at their December 17, 2014 meeting. She stressed that a subcommittee of the SIRTPO needs to be formed at a meeting of the SIRTPO.

Kevin went over the main aspects that should be considered in the conversation, including what changes would be expected to federal and state funds, Human Service Transportation planning, and travel demand modeling. He explained that when the RTPO was formed it was not foreseen that there would be a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) encompassing all of Skagit County. Todd Carlson said that we should all keep an open mind, and that we should be able to develop an agreement / structure that grows and nurtures the aspects of the SIRTPO that work, and casts aside the things that do not. Kevin stated that the solution may fall under the Interlocal Cooperative Act, which could allow the County Commissioners to convene outside of their county to participate in regional transportation planning meetings. Ultimately, the message is that the SIRTPO must identify what specifically its members want to accomplish, and then develop a structure to accommodate it.

The next step is to convene the subcommittee of the SIRTPO to identify / recommend what the members want to accomplish. The Island sub-RTPO selected Commissioner Price Johnson, Mayor Scott Dudley, and Mayor Nancy Conard to serve on the committee.

New Items

Doug asked the Board members about shifting towards electronic meeting materials instead of mailing out paper packets prior to each meeting. Members agreed this would be acceptable.

Commissioner Price Johnson brought a draft letter urging our Federal representatives to pass a multi-year transportation bill given the upcoming expiration of MAP-21. She also mentioned that she met in Clinton yesterday with WSF representatives along with Clinton residents to discuss improvements to the drop-off situation at the Clinton ferry terminal.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 25th, 11:00 AM