

ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPO POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 25, 2015

Policy Board Members in Attendance:

Fred McCarthy, Mayor, City of Langley
Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey
Jill Johnson, RTPO Chair / Island County Commissioner
Rick Almberg, Public Transit Benefit Area
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Sami Postma, Economic Development Council
Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Todd Carlson, WSDOT

Members Absent:

Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Marshall Bronson, Port of Coupeville
Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries
Todd Harrison, WSDOT

Also in Attendance:

Bill Oakes, Island County
Connie Bowers, Island County
Doug Cox, RTPO Staff
Janis Reid, Whidbey Island's Community Newspapers
Ken Graska, Island Transit
Rufus Rose, Island County Resident

The Island sub-RTPO Policy Board met in the Island County Commissioners Hearing Room on February 25, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 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 January 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Todd Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Hannold seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

Selection of new Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Johnson reminded the Board that it is time to elect a new chair and vice chair. Rick Almberg made a motion to nominate Commissioner Johnson as the chair and Fred McCarthy as Vice Chair. Mayor Dudley seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) work plan update

Doug discussed the proposed changes to the STP work plan as put forward by the TAC at their February 12th meeting. The changes are needed because the 2015 obligation (i.e. spending) target for 2015 has increased to over \$2 Million since the prior work plan was approved. The specific changes proposed were:

- Island Transit's interoperability project was not obligated in 2014, and is now expected to be obligated in 2015;
- Island County's Swantown Avenue at Heller Road Intersection Improvements is shifted 2 years earlier;
- Island County's Non-Motorized plan update is shifted 2 years earlier, and the amount increased from \$86,500 to \$175,500 which allows the project scope to be expanded to include a prioritization strategy to formalize beach access areas for non-motorized water craft access;
- Island County's Crescent Harbor Road resurfacing moved ahead 1 year;
- Oak Harbor's NW Heller Street overlay shifted 2 years earlier;
- Langley requests that their award be used for resurfacing Cascade Avenue instead of 3rd Street;
- Island Transit's replacement vehicles are planned to be obligated in 2015, so funds are available for purchase in early 2016.

Doug explained that these proposed changes will use up the current funding backlog and put the sub-region in a good position in 2016, and the next STP call would be expected for fall 2016 to select new projects for 2017 and later. Chair Johnson asked about the consequences of not meeting the obligation target, to which Doug explained that unobligated funds in our sub-region would likely be channeled to other regions in the state.

Commissioner Hannold asked if the funds could be instead used by Island Transit to procure additional buses. Doug explained that the funds can be used for transit capital expenditures, but not for transit operations and the STP requires a 13.5% match from the agency spending the funds. Other board members asked questions related to project eligibility. Chair Johnson asked for more information about the increase in scope and funding amount for the Non-Motorized plan update. Bill came to the table to explain the rationale behind including non-motorized water craft access in the project scope. Mayor Dudley criticized the lack of a formal reapplication process prior to the TAC recommending the new work plan.

Ultimately Mayor McCarthy made a motion to approve the updated STP work plan as proposed. Commissioner Hannold seconded. The motion passed with Rick Almberg and Jennifer Meyer abstaining and Mayor Dudley opposing.

SIRTPO Governance Subcommittee Update

Doug gave a quick recap of the first subcommittee meeting that took place on February 13th in Anacortes. Doug and Kevin Murphy were present along with Commissioner Price Johnson, Skagit Commissioner Ron Wesen, Mt. Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley, and Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere. He explained that the group discussed aspects of the SIRTPO that the group members desire to continue working together on, and aspects that they do not:

Desired

- Planning for regional transportation facilities & services, i.e. County transit connectors, Sharpe's Corner Improvement Project, projects directly affecting each other
- Legislative Advocacy
- Human Services Transportation

Undesired

- Project-level decisions
- “rubber stamping” decisions that have already been made at the sub-board level
- Loss of transportation planning capacity to Island County

At the January 28, 2015 Island sub-RTPO Policy Board meeting, the group selected Commissioner Price Johnson, Mayor Dudley, and Mayor Conard to serve on the committee. Doug offered that it would be beneficial if Commissioner Price Johnson had support from her fellow subcommittee representatives at future SIRTPO Governance Subcommittee meetings.

New Items

Doug provided a STIP amendment on behalf of WSDOT NW Region for the resurfacing of SR 20 from SR 525 to Jacobs Road. Construction funds are now secured and work is now planned for 2016. Todd provided more details about the scope of the project and how it relates to the operational improvements planned for SR 20 between Morris and Jacobs Roads. Todd agreed to provide a more detailed briefing about the project between Morris and Jacobs Roads at an upcoming meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

NEXT MEETING: TBD