

ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPO POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

April 22, 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
Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner
Sami Postma, Economic Development Council
Todd Carlson, WSDOT

Members Absent:

Marshall Bronson, Port of Coupeville
Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries
Rick Almberg, Public Transit Benefit Area
Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Todd Harrison, WSDOT

Also in Attendance:

Bill Oakes, Island County
Connie Bowers, Island County
Doug Cox, RTPO Staff
Ken Graska, Island Transit

The Island sub-RTPO Policy Board met in the Island County Commissioners Hearing Room on April 22, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 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 Agenda

Commissioner Price Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Sami Postma seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

There were two items on the consent agenda that were approved through separate motions. Commissioner Price Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 special meeting. Commissioner Hannold seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. The same two members made another motion to approve the STIP amendments, which also passed with all in favor.

WSDOT SR 20 Morris to Jacobs Project Briefing

Todd provided an overview of the history, development, alternatives considered, outreach efforts and status of the upcoming project on SR 20 just outside of Coupeville. The project has morphed over time into one project that will add turn lanes and four foot wide shoulders near the Solid Waste Facility, and also realign the intersection of Morris Road and SR 20. It will also include changes to how Parker Road intersects with Morris Road by bypassing SR 20 altogether. Turn pockets and bus pullouts will also be added. The project is expected to be advertised on May 18th, 2015 with construction starting in July ideally.

The group asked a variety of questions to help clarify some of the project nuances. Jennifer asked Todd to ensure that she is kept in the loop so she can issue notices to airmen using the OLF if objects taller than thirty-five feet will be used during construction. Commissioner Hannold asked about light discharge from the completed project, adding that maintaining the current levels of darkness are needed for night operations at the OLF.

SIRTPO Update

Doug talked about the chart he assembled to help the conversation about the tradeoffs of different frameworks for the SIRTPO. He also handed out a similar-but-different chart that Kevin Murphy has provided. Doug attempted to highlight some of the scenarios. The group discussed several aspects of the frameworks, including how project and planning funds would be affected in different scenarios and the challenge of the state law that currently prohibits County Commissioners from meeting outside of their county unless expressly permitted through a RCW such as 47.80, which authorizes RTPOs.

The group conversed about several unknowns that they see as crucial before settling on a new arrangement, such as the potential for HB1145 to permit County Commissioners to meet outside of their county, the pending expiration of MAP-21, and potential Federal RTPO legislation. They agreed that the current SIRTPO agreement needs to be updated. Mayor McCarthy offered that Island leaders should clearly articulate what would be lost if the SIRTPO disbands and ask Skagit leaders for their continued support.

Draft Unified Planning and Work Program (UPWP)

Doug briefly discussed the draft UPWP that the board will be asked to approve at the May 27th meeting. The document is produced by SCOG each spring. It outlines the work that the SIRTPO, Skagit MPO and Island sub-RTPO will be performing in the coming year and how the activities are funded.

Legislative Update

The group discussed several current legislative topics, including the pending expiration of MAP-21, and HB1868, which will allow Island County to use a portion of road funds for marine transportation infrastructure. There was also much interest in the differences between the Senate and House transportation package proposals. Todd and Doug identified LEAP as the best source of information on the current legislative proposals.

New Items

Commissioner Price Johnson mentioned that Governor Inslee will be taking a trip on the Tokitae to help raise awareness of the needs of ferry communities.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM.

NEXT MEETING: May 27, 2015, 11:00 AM, Commissioner's Hearing Room, Coupeville