

ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPO POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

June 24, 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  
Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville  
Rick Hannold, Island County Commissioner  
Ron Nelson, Economic Development Council  
Todd Carlson, WSDOT

**Members Absent:**

Rick Almberg, Public Transit Benefit Area  
Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor

**Also in Attendance:**

Bill Oakes, Island County  
Connie Bowers, Island County  
Doug Cox, RTPO Staff  
Nick Pinch, Island Transit

The Island sub-RTPO Policy Board met in the Island County Commissioners Hearing Room on June 24, 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 Agenda**

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

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Marshall Bronson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Mayor Conard seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Alternative Island sub-RTPO structures**

The group chatted about options for continuing to coordinate on transportation planning issues once the SIRTPO disbands on July 22, which will also cause the Island sub-RTPO to no longer exist. Based on feedback at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the intent is to form a new group with a composition similar to the Island sub-RTPO. Doug provided board

members with draft articles of association and bylaws for a new Island Transportation Planning Organization and had some questions lined up for the group about the duties of the organization and membership roles. The new organization would likely be formed under RCW 36.64 and 39.34 which do not expressly mention transit boards as entities that are allowed to form intergovernmental cooperative groups with Counties, cities, towns and ports.

Doug explained that several of the duties listed in the draft bylaws include items that intentionally overlap with the RTPO requirements listed in RCW 47.80. Fulfilling the RTPO requirements will help ensure that WSDOT will provide funding for the new organization, and streamline the transition in case the new organization is able to morph into an independent RTPO in the future. Todd Carlson explained that WSDOT is committed to providing it with the same amount of planning funds as it had received as the Island sub-RTPO for the next two years. Commissioner Price Johnson suggested that the duties also include an item pertaining to regional coordination and off-island connectivity. Chair Johnson offered that this might fit as a footnote under the 'prepare a transportation strategy for the region' item.

Chair Johnson brought up questions about the membership structure of the new organization. Doug reminded the group that at the last meeting, they discussed having Commissioners from both the Port of South Whidbey and the Port of Coupeville on the new Policy Board, but that this might result in there being an even-number of voting members. The group agreed that it is not crucial that there be an odd-number of voting members for either the new Policy Board or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). They also decided that it would be best to keep the Public Transit Benefit Area representative as a voting member of the Policy Board, and have the Island Transit Director serve on the TAC. Ron Nelson stated that he would rather serve as a voting member of the TAC; after some debate the group agreed that it would make sense. They also agreed that the TAC citizen representatives should serve for specified terms. Lastly, Doug asked if Ferry Advisory Committee members should play a role; Commissioner Price Johnson stated that they should be included on the email list, but not serve in official roles.

Chair Johnson asked Doug to make changes to the draft articles and bylaws based on the discussion and distribute them back to the group prior to the next meeting, which will be the final meeting of the Island sub-RTPO.

### **New Items**

Commissioner Price Johnson informed everyone that Representative Rick Larsen will be meeting with County leaders after the work session on July 1<sup>st</sup> in the Commissioner's Hearing Room. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 PM.

NEXT MEETING: July 22, 2015, 11:00 AM, Commissioner's Hearing Room, Coupeville