

ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPO POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 23, 2014

**Policy Board Members in Attendance:**

Aubrey Vaughan, Island County Commissioner  
Bob Clay, Vice Chair / Public Transit Benefit Area  
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  
Ron Nelson, Economic Development Council

**Members Absent:**

Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries  
Scott Dudley, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor  
Todd Carlson, WSDOT  
Todd Harrison, WSDOT

**Also in Attendance:**

Doug Cox, RTPO Staff  
Kevin Murphy, SCOG Executive Director  
Martha Rose, Island Transit Executive Director

The Island RTPO Policy Board met in the Island County Commissioners Hearing Room on July 23, 2014. 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 June 25, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Johnson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2014 meeting. Bob Clay moved to approve the minutes, with Marshall Bronson seconding. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Regional Transit Service Discussion**

Martha Rose sat down with the board to give a background on cross-jurisdictional transit services, known as the *County Connectors* that serve Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and Island Counties. Following a thorough overview of the development and ridership of these routes, a heated discussion ensued pertaining to the perceived funding cut for County Connector service. Chair Johnson's opinion is that there was no "cut" per se; instead it was a situation where the

funds granted for the service had expired. Her criticism was that the board was not made aware of the specifics of the situation or the associated consequences until it was too late to do anything about it. Commissioner Price Johnson explained that her understanding was that the funds were not set to expire for another year. There was considerable disagreement over whether the funds were granted for one or two years. Moving forward, the board plans to make contact with state legislators regarding this issue during the January 2015 legislative session. Kevin Murphy also let the board know that the Farmhouse Gang is actively working on a briefing paper on the importance of funding regional transit service to provide to legislators for consideration during the January 2015 legislative session.

### **SIRTPO Organizational Structure Discussion**

Kevin Murphy briefed the board on potential changes to the organizational structure of the Skagit-Island RTPO. Board members on the Skagit side of the RTPO have expressed interest in severing ties between the two sub-regions. While the Skagit sub-Region now has a large enough population to be able to be a RTPO on their own, the consequences of a split are somewhat unknown for the Island sub-Region. Kevin explained that this has come up in the context of creating an updated agreement for the Skagit MPO and Skagit sub-RTPO, which requires the existing Skagit-Island RTPO agreement to be updated. He also talked about how the arrangement of the SIRTPO is very unique, and that on a day-to-day level there is very little coordination that occurs between elected officials from the two different sub-regions. Kevin agreed to come back to a future meeting to continue the discussion with the board.

### **New Items**

There were no new items.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.

NEXT MEETING: August 27, 2014