

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPOLICY BOARD
November 9, 2011**

Policy Board members in attendance were:

Angie Homola, Chair, Island County Commissioner
Curt Gordon, Vice Chair, South Whidbey Port District
Bob Clay, Public Transit Benefit Area
Bob Waterman, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Langley
Curt Gordon, Vice Chair, South Whidbey Port District
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Mayor Jim Slowik, City of Oak Harbor
Mayor Nancy Conard, Town of Coupeville
Todd Carlson, WSDOT

Members absent:

Ray Dearforf, WSDOT Ferries
Ron Nelson, Economic Development Council

Also in attendance:

Roy Daniel, Island Transit
Jeff Lauderdale, Citizen
Marilynn Abrahamson, Citizen
Rufus Rose, Citizen
Donna Keeler, RTPOL Staff

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Chair Homola. No changes were made to the agenda. Bob Clay moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2011 meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair Gordon. The minutes were approved as written.

Regional Transportation Improvement Plan

Staff gave an overview of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) which is a compilation of TIP's adopted by local jurisdictions and Island Transit with projects that include state or federal funding and/or are regionally significant. The RTIP is sent to WSDOT for incorporation into the State TIP (STIP) which provides a vehicle for local agencies to access approved funding.

Normally a physical copy of the RTIP is provided to RTPOL's by mid November but due to software glitches with the State's new software program, Donna said she had not received copies by the time of the meeting. Copies are expected by mid November. As the Transportation Improvement Plans have been approved by individual jurisdictions, staff asked the Board for approval of the RTIP. Vice chair Gordon moved to approve a resolution approving the submittal of the RTIP seconded by Bob Clay.

Staff read out loud the draft resolution to Board Members approving the submittal of the RTIP to the State. Donna said if changes are needed, amendments can be made as early as January. Commissioner Price-Johnson said she is uncomfortable approving the plan without having all of the materials but understood the need to move forward in order for the projects on the RTIP/STIP to access funding. She supports the resolution to the extent it only includes the projects approved by the local jurisdictions in their TIP's. Chair Homola called for the motion which was approved unanimously.

Proposal for a White Paper on Transportation Concurrency

Staff said five proposals were received by reputable firms to develop a white paper on transportation concurrency. The TAC reviewed the proposals and a sub-committee (of the TAC) interviewed two firms.

The TAC recommends hiring Henderson, Young and Company, Inc. Mayor Conard moved to approve a contract, seconded by Commissioner Emerson.

Mayor Conard said she talked to Senator Haugen about the white paper. The Senator is supportive of the effort and has offered the services of her staff to assist in this endeavor. Mayor Conard added it important the focus (of the white paper) stay within Island County. Todd referred to the RFP which discusses Island County in detail. Members discussed their concerns to ensure the consultant is not misled and the paper is approached in an open and objective manner, and all concerns raised are adequately addressed. Donna said she will keep Board members notified of meetings with the consultant and board members who would like to meet with Randy Young are welcome to do so. Chair Homola called for the motion which was approved unanimously.

Regional Priority Transportation Project List Update

Staff said the list of “top 20” projects for the Island-Skagit region is being reviewed by the TAC for updates. Commissioner Emerson and Mayor Slowik said they would like to see the Deception Pass Bride Feasibility study remain on the list. Mayor Conard asked if there is interest in doing a study on the bridge that would similar to a white paper with options for rebuilding the bridge and how people and goods will be moved across should the bridge be out of service. Alternatives need to be addressed and costs need to be determined.

Helen said homeland security funds may be available since the Navy relies on the bridge. Todd Carlson said this is similar to an EIS scoping study which could cost up to \$100,000 if the standard NEPA alternatives are included and it could take 5-8 years. Curt Gordon said the Ports may know of grant sources. Jennifer Meyer said she is not aware of fund sources. Commissioner Price-Johnson said the County’s Emergency Services Plan addresses the bridge and she will get a copy for board members.

Todd Carlson gave an overview of WSDOT’s role in the “top 20” process and discussed concerns raised by PSRC and larger RTPO regarding the list. He said WSDOT would like to see the Sharpes Corner project divided into three separate projects to include Gibraltar and a bike/ped component. Mayor Slowik said he is concerned about separating out Sharpes Corner and recommended keeping it as one project. Mayor Conard said she would like to see the 6-year TIP’s prioritized which could feed into this process. Mayor Slowik agreed and expressed concerns that the list should be based on priorities and not just funding. Jennifer Meyer said priorities can change if you don’t include all the components of a project. Commissioner Homola suggested prioritizing the list based on specific criteria. Board members agreed and Donna said she would have the TAC look at prioritizing the list using the criteria provided by the state and the Regional Transportation Plan.

New Items

Bob Clay said he attended a ferry reservation system meeting with Mayor Conard and Commissioner Price-Johnson. The new reservation system is scheduled to be implemented during the summer of 2012. Bob added it will be easy to make on-line reservations and the system is expected to maximize the use of the vessels. Commissioner Price-Johnson said the person at WSDOT heading up the effort has extensive experience in Canada and Alaska.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10

Next Meeting: December 14, 2011 at 11:00 AM