

ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
MEETING

Island County Commissioner's Hearing Room
6th and Main Street, Coupeville

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

MEETING STARTS AT 11:00 A.M.

AGENDA

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| 1. Approval of May 25, 2011 meeting minutes | Action |
| 2. FFY 2011 Surface Transportation Project – Regional Funds | Inform /Action |
| 3. Proposal for white paper on concurrency | Inform /Action |
| 4. Update on Island RTPO website development | Inform |
| 5. New items | |

Notes:

MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND SUB-REGIONAL RTPOLICY BOARD
July 27, 2011

Policy Board members in attendance were:

Angie Homola, Chair, Island County Commissioner
Curt Gordon, Vice Chair, South Whidbey Port District
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Mayor Jim Slowik, City of Oak Harbor
Mayor Nancy Conard, Town of Coupeville
Mayor Paul Samuelson, City of Langley
Bob Clay, PublicTransit Benefit District
Todd Harrison, WSDOT
Kerri Woehler, WSDOT

Also in attendance:

Rufus Rose, Citizen
Bill Oakes, Island County Public Works Director
Donna Keeler, RTPO Staff

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM by Chair Homola. No changes were made to the agenda. The minutes of the May 25, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Surface Transportation Project – Regional Funds

Staff discussed the Surface Transportation Extension Act – STP (Surface Transportation Project)-Regional funds. Island County region was awarded \$1,158,351 for FY 2011. Donna asked Board Members to approve a recommendation by the TAC to issue a “call for projects” using the same STP-R criteria approved by the Policy Board in 2010. Commissioner Price Johnson moved to approve a call for projects, selection criteria and schedule recommended by the TAC. The motion was seconded by Mayor Samuelson. Following a few questions on the process the motion was approved without further discussion.

White Paper Proposal

Staff discussed a second draft of an RFP for a white paper on Concurrency from the TAC. Bill Oakes explained the need for a white paper and emphasized it will provide the TAC and Policy Board with a list of

options and a better understanding of the consequences of each. He said the County has reached a point where we can no longer continue lowering level of service standards. The TAC has a very strong interest in further defining the problems and options - and how they all interact. There are multiple jurisdictions involved which adds to the complexity of the issue.

Commissioner Homola suggested including a discussion of land use patterns in the white paper and emphasized the importance of all jurisdictions to work together to figure how and where we want growth to occur in the County. The Planning Department is just beginning to conduct a buildable lands analysis.

Curt Gordon said he was still on the TAC when a White Paper was initially proposed. In his opinion the purpose of the paper is to provide more clarity on concurrency regulations as they apply to Island County. The TAC is trying to determine where the mark is. There are many that feel the language in the law needs more clarity.

Bob Clay asked why the white paper is needed since concurrency regulations have been in place since the inception of the Growth Management Act. Bill Oakes responded that the goal is to frame the issue for the County, cities and WSDOT. Every local jurisdiction will continue making its own decisions in regard to growth. He sees the paper as helping staff and policy decision makers define and clarify options. For example, once you make a land use decision, how does concurrency fit in?

Kerri Woehler clarified that even though the early concurrency regulations date back to the late 1980's the section of the law that applies to "counties composed of Islands only" was not adopted until the late 1990's. Since then Island County has not been exempt from Highways of Statewide Significance. WSDOT has been working with the County on a corridor intersection analysis to address options for a variety of key intersections on Whidbey Island. The white paper will help address the policy side of how these intersections will be dealt with. Bill Oakes added he does not think the County can continue meeting level of service standards for much longer.

Mayor Conard said she believes this paper will help the Policy Board state its case more effectively, provide talking points and better address local needs. From WSDOT's perspective, Todd Harrison said the paper is an important next step towards understanding and addressing concurrency issues in Island County. Until recently, there hasn't been a lot of pressure to do so. The paper will highlight how jurisdictions within Island County are working together to improve transportation planning. The outcome may lead to future changes that could have region-wide benefits.

Commissioner Homola said she is concerned that the paper will be done too soon - before the land use analysis is completed. Todd said he understands Commissioner Homola's point of view and suggested that the scope of work could include more detail to address future projected growth and land use. Bill said the purpose of the paper is not to determine how Island County will grow but to provide options in terms of addressing concurrency regulations. Curt added that it will clarify potential outcomes if levels of service standards are not met, and a series of steps that could be taken to avoid problems. Currently solutions feel like they are out of reach.

Kerri Woehler said "concurrency" is meant to be a tool to implement local comprehensive plans. The question the TAC is asking is whether concurrency (as a tool) is working effectively to meet GMA goals. If not, can changes be made to make concurrency work better.

Mayor Slowik asked if the white paper will delve into what each jurisdiction is doing in regards to concurrency. Bill said no. The problem is that local jurisdictions don't have control over a major component of the transportation system. An example is the Port Townsend / Coupeville ferry service. Any failure associated with that run will most likely not be due to local growth or development. The science behind current transportation planning does not adequately deal with tourism. Todd said WSDOT can help further define the proposal and clarify with interested consultants the specific things sought in the paper.

Mayor Samuelson said he would like to see the proposal move forward and made a motion to approve having the TAC finalize and issue the RFP taking into consideration the concerns shared today. The motion was seconded by Mayor Conard and approved.

Update on RTPO Website

Staff distributed a handout with an outline of items for the proposed Island RTPO Website. Donna said the site will be accessed through the County website and she is working with the Public Works webmaster. Members suggested a few links to be added. The goal is to have website up and running by the fall of this year.

New Items

There will be no meeting in August. The next Island Sub-Region RTPO Policy Board is scheduled on September 28th.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.