



**MINUTES FROM THE SKAGIT-ISLAND REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SIRTPO)  
POLICY BOARD MEETING**

**OCTOBER 24, 2012**

**POLICY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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Commissioner Kelly Emerson (Chair) ..... Island County  
Mayor Dean Maxwell (Co-Chair) ..... City of Anacortes  
Todd Carlson..... WSDOT  
Council man Bob Clay..... Public Transportation Benefit Authority  
Mayor Nancy Conard ..... Town of Coupeville  
Commissioner Sharon Dillon..... Skagit County  
Mayor Scott Dudley..... City of Oak Harbor  
Commissioner Curt Gordon..... Port of South Whidbey  
Commissioner Angie Homola..... Island County  
Commissioner Helen Price Johnson ..... Island County  
Commissioner Ray Niver..... Port of Anacortes  
Commissioner Ron Wesen..... Skagit County

**GUESTS PRESENT**

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Representative Barbara Bailey..... WA State Representative  
Congressman Rick Larsen ..... US Congressman  
Representative Norma Smith ..... WA State Representative  
Esco Bell ..... City of Mount Vernon  
Gina Bull..... Office of Senator Mary Margaret Haugen  
Ed Conyers ..... WSDOT  
Katie Drewel..... Office of Representative Kristine Lytton  
Carol Ehlers ..... Public Attendee  
Ron Nelson ..... Island County Economic Development Council  
Bill Oakes ..... Island County  
Dale O'Brien..... Skagit Transit  
Paul Randall-Grutter..... Skagit County  
Martha Rose..... Island Transit  
John Shambaugh ..... WSDOT

**STAFF PRESENT**

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Donna Keeler ..... Island RTPO  
James Mastin ..... SCOG  
Kevin Murphy ..... SCOG  
Gabe Philips..... SCOG



## AGENDA ITEMS

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1. INTRODUCTIONS: Roll was taken with a quorum present.
2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26, 2011 MEETING MINUTES: On motion by Councilman Bob Clay, Public Transportation Benefit Authority, seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Sharon Dillon, the October 26 SIRTPO meeting minutes were approved.
3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

United States Congressman Rick Larsen: Congressman Larsen gave a brief update on federal transportation issues. He praised the SIRTPO as well as the state as we have always been leaders in transportation in the northwest. In the last year, Skagit County has received a federal investment of close to \$21 million for the Anderson Laventure project, Port of Skagit Runway, and Swinomish Channel Dredging. Congressman Larsen then gave a brief update on the new federal transportation bill, MAP-21. Congressman Larsen then answered various questions from those in attendance.

Representative Barbara Bailey: Representative Bailey said that the most important thing she and her fellow legislators are working on is jobs and the economy in Washington State. She recommends that SIRTPO members begin making recommendations on new ways to fund transportation. The gas tax is not the best way to fund transportation in today's economy. Representative Bailey also said that one of the biggest problems we have in this state is the difference in transportation needs between urban and rural areas.

Representative Norma Smith: Representative Smith is looking carefully at ferry delivery costs to determine how design decisions can impact long-term maintenance costs. She encouraged SIRTPO members to review the Washington Economic Development Commission's Draft Strategic Plan and send any responses to her. She also emphasized that we cannot expect to have a robust economy if we do not produce something.

4. TRANSIT UPDATE:

Skagit Transit: Dale O'Brien gave a brief update of the status of Skagit Transit. Skagit Transit is one of the few transit agencies in the state that has not had to lay off staff due to sales tax revenues being up 2.57%. Ridership is up 5.4% from last year while Dial-a-Ride ridership is down 2.5%. Dale thinks the decrease in Dial-a-Ride use is due to travel training and education that Skagit Transit has been providing. The Bellingham Express makes up 6% of total ridership while the Everett Express makes up 12%.

Island Transit: Martha Rose gave a brief update of the status of Island Transit. Ridership is still very high; they have 4,700 riders a day. Island Transit has found that if they provide fare-free transit, riders will be willing to take longer trips. Progress is being made on the Island Transit Headquarter Facility Project.



5. WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES UPDATE:

Ray Deardorf gave a brief update on the status of Washington State Ferries. Ray reported that a preferred alternative has been proposed for the Mukilteo Multimodal Station. Also, funding has been assigned for the design of pedestrian improvements to the Anacortes ferry terminal. Some of the changes that will be included in the proposed 2013-2015 budget is that the Anacortes routes will have extended winter seasons, the Mukilteo to Clinton route will remove the final sailing on weekdays, and the Coupeville to Port Townsend route will only run one boat in the shoulder seasons. In the last year the Coupeville route carried more vehicles longer than fifty feet than any other route in the system.

6. WSDOT MOUNT BAKER REGION UPDATE:

Todd Carlson gave a brief update on the status of WSDOT projects and issues in the region. The overwhelming issue is the lack of funding for basic transportation needs (maintenance, preservation, safety, and environmental). The gas tax has not risen since 1991 for basic needs and therefore there are serious budget shortfalls. The gas tax increases in 2003 and 2005 were for specific projects. It is difficult to even maintain the existing infrastructure. There is no money to build new projects.

7. UPDATE FROM SENATOR MARY MARGARET HAUGEN

Senator Haugen was unable to attend the meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF 2013 SIRTPO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RTIP):

James Mastin gave a brief report on the status of the RTIP and requested action to approve the SIRTPO RTIP. On motion by Skagit County Commissioner Sharon Dillon, seconded by Councilman Bob Clay, Public Transportation Benefit Authority, the 2013 SIRTPO RTIP was approved.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: THERE WERE NO PUBLIC COMMENTS.

10. NEW BUSINESS: THERE WAS NO NEW BUSINESS

11. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

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Commissioner Jill Johnson, Island County  
Chair, Island Sub-RTPO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor Dean Maxwell, City of Anacortes  
Chair, Skagit Sub-RTPO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## ACTION ITEM 3.D: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

### Document History

MEETING	DATE	TYPE OF ITEM	STAFF CONTACT	PHONE
Skagit TAC	10/03/2013	Discussion	<a href="#">Gabe Philips</a>	360-416-6678
Island TAC	10/10/2013	Discussion	<a href="#">Doug Cox</a>	360-678-7959
SIRTPO Policy Board	10/15/2013	Action	<a href="#">Gabe Philips</a>	360-416-6678

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

SIRTPO staff, the Skagit Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Island TAC recommend approval of the enclosed [project selection process](#) and [project selection criteria](#) for the Transportation Alternatives Program.

## FISCAL IMPACT

This action would allow Skagit-Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SIRTPO) to issue a call for Transportation Alternatives Program projects and remain fiscally constrained through the life of the 2014-2017 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

## DISCUSSION

SIRTPO is allocated Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds from the Federal Highways Administration via WSDOT. Currently SIRTPO has a balance of around \$150,000 available for projects, as well as an estimated \$229,000 allocated annually. SIRTPO has received direction to program at least four years' worth of project allocations in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For this reason, with the approval of this selection process, SIRTPO will be issuing a call for projects to fill six years' worth of TAP projects into the TIP. The first four years will be within the fiscally constrained portion of the TIP and the last two serving as illustrative priorities should additional funding become available. The call for projects will make available approximately \$1,524,000 for alternative transportation projects in Skagit and Island Counties.