



ISLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 13, 2022

TAC Member Attendance List

John Shambaugh, NW Region Mt Baker Area - WSDOT
Stan Reeves, Executive Director - Port of South Whidbey
Don Meeham - District 1 Citizen Representative
Randi Perry, Director of Public Works – City of Langley
Chloe Bensen, Current Use Planner – Island County
Ed Sewester, Assistant County Engineer – Island County
Cac Kamack, Senior Planner - City of Oak Harbor
Kelly Riepma, Public Works Superintendent - Town of Coupeville
Todd Morrow, Executive Director - Island Transit
Brett Arvidson, City of Oak Harbor for Alex Warner
Brian Tyhuis, Community Planning and Liaison Officer - NAS Whidbey

Facilitator

Heather Bickford, Transportation Planner - Island County

1. Welcome and Introductions

Heather Bickford called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ed Sewester moves to approve the meeting minutes of November 18, 2021, as written. John Shambaugh seconds. All yeas, motion passed.

3. Information on Upcoming Events

Contract Management Class

Island County was looking into having a contract management class, and opening it up to anyone within the IRTPO jurisdiction who would like to participate. John Shambaugh and Gabe Philips from WSDOT were hoping they could host the event, but it seems unlikely because of WSDOT's budget. John recommends looking for classes through the Association of Counties or the

Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC). *Note: the MRSC has contract management webinars on-demand for \$30 through April 1, 2022.*

Green Transportation in Island County

The Executive Board is having WSU present their Green Transportation Program at the next meeting on January 26, 2022. The main focus will be converting fleet vehicles from gas to electric.

4. Information on Upcoming Funding

Grant Funding Sources 2022

This is an A-Z list of grant funding opportunities to have on hand.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

This is just a heads-up to let you know these infrastructure grant opportunities are on the horizon. While there will be more grants at the State level, local governments will see some opportunities too, so it's something to keep on your radar.

National Highway Freight Program

A webinar on this grant program is coming up next week on January 19, 2022. If you don't plan to listen to the webinar live, you can watch it on-demand afterwards here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/785340894299203336>

This freight-based grant program is funneled through the RTPO's, but the turn-around time is very tight, both in terms of application time and project length. Applications are due by March 16, 2022, and the projects will need to be completed during the years of 2023-2025. We can discuss this more at the next TAC Meeting.

5. State Transportation Improvement Program

Just a reminder that IRTPO members need to check their projects in STIP to make sure the projects listed are correct and in order before we head into the RTIP season.

6. Volunteers for Interview Panel

We are receiving our second round of Request for Proposals for the HSTP/RTP update on February 17, 2022 and need volunteers to help with interviewing the consultants to make sure the process is fair and equitable. Cac Kamack from City of Oak Harbor volunteered, and John Shambaugh said he would nominate someone from WSDOT. *Note: Thank you, Cac, and some lucky soul from WSDOT!*

7. Members Round Table

Todd Morrow, Island Transit – Island Transit (IT) is in the beginning stages of a public engagement process to decide on six new service improvement options. Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants are on board to help. The six options are listed on the IT website, along with a survey to obtain public feedback. IT will also be reaching out to local groups and jurisdictions for additional feedback. The service improvement options include: service on Sundays, service later in the evening, seasonal service, and reconfiguring routes. IT is not quite sure how much they can afford to implement yet, but they are working on that. Also, depending on the service option(s) chosen, implementation may take a while because IT might have to hire new people, train them, and have enough buses ready for an expanded service. The Board of Directors could be making the decision as early as April.

Don Meehan, Citizen Representative – Don has been trying to inspire the Port District, Oak Harbor, Coupeville, and Island County in acquire the private airport in Oak Harbor that's up for sale. The community will benefit from having a functional airport that's part of a multimodal approach, and it's a cash flow positive business. There used to be a lot of people using the airport in the 1990's to get to SeaTac and Boeing Field, upwards of 30,000-40,000 people a year. Commercial airlines began to get limited in 2010. Don's afraid the airport will be bought and turned into a development since it's so close to Oak Harbor.

Stan Reeves, Port of South Whidbey – We have a phone call tomorrow morning to talk about the Hat Island Ferry, but we still need the money to support its operation. If it does work out, it would be a matter of getting people to and from South Whidbey Harbor. So Todd from Island Transit will be on the phone call tomorrow.

Heather Bickford, IRTPO – I've been putting together a calendar for both TAC and the Executive Board that shows what happens when so both groups knows what's coming up, and what events and tasks they need to be aware of. Also, Chair Bacon mentioned she would like to have a joint Executive Board and TAC Meeting one month so she can meet everyone and discuss joint IRTPO goals, and see if the Executive Board can help the TAC Board out in any way. I think it's a great idea, so that might be coming up in the next few months.

John Shambaugh, WSDOT - We're doing our baseline analysis study on SR 532. WSDOT's safety team will be starting their work at the end of January. We'll also employ a public survey, so it was good to hear that Todd has his survey out...hopefully we can use some of that info as well. We're hoping to wrap the technical analysis up by July. If we find problems, we'll start looking at those, and add in the tourist element, and if we don't find problems, we'll move on to the next project.

6. Adjourn

Heather Bickford adjourned the meeting at 1:39 pm.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2022

Common Acronyms:

EDC – Economic Development Council

HSTP – Human Services Transportation Plan

IRTPO – Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization

NAS – Naval Air Station

PT = Public Transit

RFQ – Request for Qualifications

RTIP – Regional Transportation Improvement Program

RTP – Regional Transportation Plan

SR - State Route

STBG – Surface Transportation Block Grant

TAC – Technical Advisory Committee

UPWP – Unified Planning Work Program

WSDOT – Washington State Department of Transportation

WSF – Washington State Ferries