

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ISLAND RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 20, 2012**

Attendance List

Cac Kamak, City of Oak Harbor
Challis Stringer, City of Langley
Connie Bowers, Island County
Dee Wells, Island Transit
Don Meehan, Citizen
Donna Keeler, RTPO Staff
Elizabeth Sjostrom, WSDOT
Greg Cane, Town of Coupeville
Joantha Guthrie, Island County
Joe Araucto, Public Works
John Shambaugh, WSDOT
Martha Rose, Island Transit
Mike Morton, Citizen

The meeting began at 1:03 PM. Martha introduced Dee Wells of Island Transit who will be taking over for Roy Daniel. Challis moved to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2012 TAC Meeting, seconded by Elizabeth. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Surface Transportation Funding

Donna distributed handouts pertaining to a call for projects for STP-R funds including a proposed schedule and draft applications for regular STP-R projects and surface overlays. After hearing from TAC members on a suggestion to set aside STP-R funds for surface overlays, Donna proposed designating \$300,000 for such use along with a separate grant application form. The remaining \$748,787 would be used for STP-R projects.

The Committee discussed using a consistent rating system for all roads (that may qualify for surface overlay funds) to ensure funds are directed to where the need is highest. In order to have enough time to conduct road ratings, the Committee agreed to extend the STP-R grant application deadline to November 6th, with presentations on the following day, November 7th. The TAC further concurred to have staff submit the proposed revised "Call for Projects" schedule and draft STP-R application forms to the Policy Board for approval on September 26th.

Staff brought up the idea of "borrowing ahead" on STP-R funds. This is an approach other RTPO's have used to fund and build large projects using today's dollars. The committee discussed some of the pros/cons of borrowing ahead and tabled the issue for future discussion.

Approval of Draft Transportation Concurrency Review Checklist

Committee members were provided with a second copy of a draft checklist that describes a process for allowing local RTPO's to certify the consistency of transportation elements of local comprehensive plans. The certification process is based on GMA requirements. Donna made note of suggestions provided at the last meeting and asked TAC members to get back to her with any final revisions by the next meeting.

Signage Funds

TAC members discussed requests from the City of Langley and the South Whidbey Port District requesting funds for electronic speed signs in Clinton and Langley. Connie clarified the types of speed signs for each location would likely differ based on the need and request. After further discussion the committee agreed to have staff bring the letters forward to the Policy Board with the TAC's support for up to \$15,000 per request.

Staff brought up a concern regarding the low lighting at the Deception Pass Monument Sign on Fidalgo Island. The orientation and location makes it difficult to be noticed by vehicles travelling by. Donna suggested using a portion of funds set aside for signage for solar lighting or other solution. After further discussion on alternatives, staff agreed to look into it further and return with more information.

Update on Transportation Concurrency White Paper

Staff discussed the status of the White Paper and said Policy Board is still reviewing the TAC's recommendation and discussing other options. No decisions have been made.

Return of STP-Enhancement Funds

Greg Cane said the Town of Coupeville made the difficult decision to return \$82,000 of STP-E funds awarded in 2011 for a connecting trail. The Town currently does not have the resources to move forward with the project and decided it would be best to return the money to be used for other worthy projects. Staff said the committee has a choice to issue a call for projects now for such funds, or combine it with the next Federal allotment. Donna said she will look into the schedule for the distribution of upcoming TA funds (formerly Enhancement funds) and will get back with the group.

Freeland Trail Project

An update of the Freeland Trail project was provided by Joantha Guthrie of Island County Public Works. Joantha said project costs have risen to \$1.1 million largely due to the requirement for a boardwalk over an existing regulated wetland. One way to manage costs would be to separate the project into phases. Phase 1 would consist of Fish Road to Cameron Road. Phase 2 would complete the project to Bush Pt. Road and a future transit park. Joantha said she likely be applying for additional STP funds to complete phase 1. Elizabeth added the airspace lease with WSDOT is moving forward. Members asked questions about the location and users of the new trail. Martha gave an overview of the proposed Selma Farmers Park and Ride that will connect to the trail. Donna said the project will also likely qualify for "Transportation Alternative" funding.

SIRTPO Bylaws

Staff distributed a copy of revised bylaws for the Joint Skagit-Island RTPO. The bylaws discuss the composition of each sub-regional board, duties and responsibilities. After further discussion, Donna said the TAC will revisit the draft document at a future meeting.

Next TAC Meeting: October 11, 2012