

WSDOT/MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee Meeting
May 24, 2011
Summary

1. Chair Report

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)/Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) coordinating committee approved the [February 22, 2011 meeting summary](#).

Gordon Rogers asked members with agenda items for upcoming coordinating committee meetings to notify Judy Lorenzo or the coordinating committee chair or vice chair before the meeting.

2. Federal and State Updates

Lon Wyrick reported that he met with Senator Patty Murray about reauthorization. He said Congress is analyzing Representative Mica's bill and will continue their review after Memorial Day.

Lon also reported that the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) is talking to Congress about revising the population threshold for MPO.

Brian Smith and Judy Lorenzo noted that SB5128 (concerning statewide transportation planning) moved forward in its original state and, although it did not pass, it but can be heard again in 2012.

Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) Bills of Interest

Dave Andersen reported on the Washington State Department of [Commerce's bills of interest](#) in the 2011 legislative session, highlighting:

- ESHB 1071 (enacted) - Complete Streets grant program
- ESHB 1478 (enacted) - Delaying or modifying city and county Growth management statutes.
- HB 1967 (enacted) – Concerning public transportation systems.

WSDOT provided a handout of the Washington State Department of [Transportation's bills of interest](#).

3. WSDOT Update

T Program Budget

Judy Lorenzo informed members that the state transportation budget was adopted and she provided a revised chart of estimated state and federal funding for RTPOs and MPOs for use in finalizing pending Unified Planning Work Programs.

In response to the WSDOT request for proposals for unspent state RTPO funds, Judy explained there was more than \$80,000 in requests. She explained that several requests could be partially funded. Members were provided a handout of proposals and asked to consider an email vote - \$17,000 was available.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to approve Judy's recommendation for spending the \$17,000, in place of the email vote. The motion passed.

Mark Kushner asked if FHWA PL Funds still contain an Air Quality factor.

ACTION: Judy will check with Gail to confirm this. (Complete)

Answer: Yes, the PL funding formula includes a base allocation with adjustment factors for population and air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas.

State Smart Transportation Initiative – Moving Washington

A team of AASHTO officials and other experts in the transportation field audited WSDOT, looking at perceptions of WSDOT's sustainability efforts - internally and externally. WSDOT HQ is currently reviewing a draft report.

ACTION: Brian will make the final report available as soon as it is out.

Executive Order 09-05 2(b)

Brian asked that members from the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, and Thurston Regional Planning Council talk to their respective policy boards about this work. He indicated that WSDOT is also available to talk to policy boards as needed.

The 2(b) section relies on the four named MPO's for information. The process in the E.O. is intended to foster collaboration to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). Other RTPOs can participate by contacting Jason Beloso at (206) 464-1259 or belosoj@wsdot.wa.gov. The final report is due December 1, 2011.

4. Opportunities to Work Collaboratively in Increasingly Lean Economic Times

Judy asked for input from the RTPOs on how to improve the WSDOT HQ TPO liaison process.

Initial Responses:

Dean Lookingbill suggested reducing duplication of planning efforts and summarizing WSDOT's roles and responsibilities.

Page Scott said she uses WSDOT data financial and traffic data frequently. She suggested:

- continuing or increasing WSDOT knowledge of regulatory requirements and eligible uses of planning funds;
- having an advocate within WSDOT when there are problems with other agencies;
- intervention and assistance, e.g., pushing back for the RTPO;
- more two-way communication while reviewing plans;
- two-way communication with the TAC and Policy Board;
- more partnering with region on emerging issues; and
- keeping processes simple.

Todd Carlson encouraged the MPOs and RTPOs to look for opportunities to mine WSDOT data and resources.

Steve Harvey suggested that WSDOT assign a representative to talk about state legislative bills.

ACTION: Judy will follow-up with an email to solicit more ideas.

5. How the Governor's Transportation Advisory Group Relates to the 2011 Transportation Budget Proviso

The transportation supplemental budget bill (ESHB 1175) included a proviso that gives RTPOs a role in helping to shape the next budget proposal for transportation. The draft proviso language (white paper) was developed by Rick Olson and Charlie Howard with Page Scott and Gordon Rogers' input. Gordon said that he and Page are meeting with Paula Hammond on June 1 to discuss the process.

ACTION: Gordon will get back to MPOs/RTPOs for guidance after the task force meeting and outcomes from that meeting. He suggested that members read Rick Olson's memo.

6. TIP/STIP Subcommittee Report

Gordon referred to the [TIP/STIP Subcommittee Report](#) and asked if the process of a subcommittee meeting and reporting back to the coordinating committee is working. Discussion followed.

For additional details, see the [TIP/STIP Subcommittee Report Discussion from the May 24, 2011 Coordinating Committee meeting](#).

ACTION: Jack Lord agreed to provide feedback on the subcommittee's responses to his requests.

ACTION: The subcommittee will continue to address issues.

7. State Freight Mobility Plan

Barb Ivanov reported on the Statewide Freight Mobility Plan, scheduled for completion in 2013 and explained there will be an interim deliverable: Truck Bottleneck Analysis.

The Technical Committees include RTPOs as members:

- Export Initiative
- Livable Urban Economy
- Rural Economies

ACTION:

- Judy will email the RTPOs and MPOs the technical committee rosters. (Done)
- If you have action items for Barb, please send them to her by the end of May.
- TPO will post on the Planning website information and resources for the MPOs and RTPOs about this plan. (Done)

8. WA State Department of [Commerce Transportation Elements Guidelines Update](#)

ACTION: RTPOs are encouraged to provide input

- Go to the project web site.
- Sign up for the list serve.
- MPOs/RTPOs provide feedback on the process and the guidebook.
- Cliff will work with Dave Andersen on the TIP and air quality sections of the guidance. (Ongoing).

New Washington State Transportation Commissioners:

Anne Haley, Walla Walla, was appointed by the governor to be on the Commission. She is finishing out Elmira's term. Jerry Litt will serve on the Commission, effective July 1.