

**Metropolitan / Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO) /
Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Coordinating Committee Meeting
Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Board Room
February 22, 2011 Notes**

Attendees:

Mark Kushner	Julie Rodwell	James Mastin
Page Scott	Jerry Ayres	Donna Keeler
Rob Willford	Cliff Hall	Paul Parker
Steve Harvey	Kelly McGourty	Ned Conroy
Lon Wyrick	Glenn Miles	Rick Olson, PSRC Staff
Gordon Rogers	Stephanie Tax	Mike Cummings
John Donohue	Charles Prestrud	Teri Hotsko
Karyn Anderson	Kirk Vinish	Charlene Kay
Sharon Zimmerman	Kerri Woehler	

On the phone:

Duane Wollmuth
Reema Griffith

The meeting started at 9:07 a.m.

1. Introductions and Farewells:

Gordon Rogers recognized three WSDOT retirees, Ralph Wilhelmi (February), Julie Rodwell (March), and Larry Ehl (April) for their contributions to the WSDOT/MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee and the MPOs and RTPOs.

2. Chair Report:

The committee approved the meeting notes from November 30, 2010.

3. Federal Updates:

Lon Wyrick reported that Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) staff has spent considerable time with Representative Mica's staff in Washington D.C. and there needs to be a second look at issues with Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). He is calling the AMPO Board together next month to look at revised recommendations for MPO size and grandfathering in. The Board will hear new recommendations from the Committee. He also reported some frustrations about the format of Mica's listening sessions and how Mica dominated the conversation.

Glenn Miles shared that Representative Mica is using the Minneapolis bridge replacement project as the poster child about delay factors killing projects. The Columbia River Crossing (CRC) was also used as an example. Page Scott reported that the AMPO policy committee meeting is scheduled for March 8 and 9 and asked that if members have any points or

positions they want raised at that meeting to please let Page or Lon know. Page said she is often the only voice in the room for small MPOs.

Page also reported that National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) met in February when the President's budget came out. One of the things that came out of the discussion is to expect more competitive programs. The notion is that competition breeds creativity and more participation. The President's budget would front-load \$50 billion designed to give states a boost. She noted that funding in YVCOG's 2011-2013 TIP drops off a cliff. No one in her region is teeing up new projects.

Kirk Vinish reported that the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization meets quarterly, typically in the PSRC Board room. The next meeting, however, is being held at the Kalispell Tribe Casino and Resort (Airway Heights) in April, in conjunction with the Tribal Transportation Assistance Center, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highways Administration. Since there does seem to be movement to coordinate with partners, the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization will work with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) to develop a position, or positions on the reauthorization. The ATNI produces position papers and circulates them at the national level, but they tend to water down what the northwest tribes need and want. The primary issue northwest tribes have is how funding funnels to tribes. Kirk said that the tribal message is "simplification." It is extraordinarily complicated to get money.

One other issue this group is interested in is participation in MPOs by tribal representatives. Tribal leaders often ask the opposite question. Sometimes, tribal leaders need to answer: how hard they are working to connect with their MPOs.

4. State Updates:

Paul Parker shared a summary of transportation bills that he monitors and informs the Washington State Transportation Commission on, including: SHB1469 Landscape Conservancy, Washington State Ferries (WSF), and local infrastructure; HB 1915 Public Works Assistance Account funding; SB5796/HB1967 Public Transportation.

Julie Rodwell reported there are several land use bills that Leonard Bauer with the Department of Commerce will be sending out to the group.

Page and Gordon led the discussion on SB5128/HB1747. At the close of the discussion, Gordon set up a subcommittee of MPOs and RTPOs to address legislative requests.

5. Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) Report:

Paul reported that the Commission delivered the Washington Transportation Plan 2030 to the Legislature. He also reported that the Governor appointed Tom Cowan from Lopez Island to the WSTC.

The WSTC set two tolls and new ferry fares to begin January 1, 2012. However, an initiative by Tim Eyman now requires legislative action to adopt the WSTC decisions. Paul doesn't know if the legislature will re-designate the WSTC. Paul shared that there is a concern from Washington State Ferries that bonds won't be easy without one authority.

Committee members asked Reema Griffith and Paul how the Top 20 project lists will be used by the Legislature. Reema responded that the first discussion with the Senate Transportation Committee would take place on February 23 and they would report the outcome via email to the members.

Paul then reported the WSTC's next major project is to develop a tribal consultation policy and that they will be contacting the TTPO.

The next WSTC meetings, focusing on city and county issues, will be on April 19 in Olympia and on June 21 in Cheney. The September meeting will be in Clarkston. The November meeting will be in Vancouver. These are their four statewide meetings.

6. Planning Process and Local and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP):

Gordon shared the highlights of his phone conversation with Jack Lord (FHWA) on TIP/STIP improvements and scheduled a special full MPO/RTPO/WSDOT committee meeting on March 22 with Jack Lord presenting the issues. All Coordinating Committee members are welcome to attend the meeting.

7. STIP Software:

Stephanie Tax announced that the new web-based STIP software is complete. Nancy Huntley is developing the instructional manual. Cliff Hall will test the manual with the software, and training sessions will be scheduled in May and June. Training will cover the web-based software and TIP/STIP process. Project sponsors and MPO/RTPOs will now be able to enter projects for the new 2012 STIP with this web-based program. The software accommodates the four- and six-year processes.

Cliff and Jack will be a part of the training.

8. May Agenda:

Legislative list, post-session