

MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee

Meeting Summary for August 24, 2010

1. Introductions

2. Chair Report – Jeff Wilkens

Jeff informed members that the change in venue to Puget Sound Regional Council was made due to funding restrictions. More discussion on meeting locations will take place.

The May 18, 2010 Meeting Summary received consent approval.

3. Federal and State Legislative Updates

JTC Update

a. State-level Planning Evaluation – Paul Neal

Paul led a brief discussion on the JTC study to evaluate state-level transportation plans. Included in the study is an evaluation of how federal and state statutes fit together for plan coordination. The Cedar River Group has been hired to complete the study. A white paper on background research is due on September 1, 2010. An analysis and recommendations for the draft report are due on November 15, 2010 and the final report is to be completed by December 15, 2010. An update is desired at the November 30, 2010 Coordinating Committee meeting. The Planning Scope of work and schedules of selected transportation plans is at the JTC web site: [Current Studies](#)

b. Transit Investment Blueprint Study – Gene Baxstrom

The study is to identify the state's role in funding public transportation and develop a blueprint for state investments. A transit advisory panel will look at connections to service, special needs transportation, long-term economic needs, and economic downturn needs. Charlie Howard and Page Scott are representing the MPOs/RTPOs on the study panel. Parsons-Brinckerhoff has been hired to complete the study. The project report is due on December 15, 2010. The Transit Advisory Panel Meeting Information & Materials is at the following link: [Transit Advisory Panel Information](#)

c. Local Agency Efficiencies: CRAB-TIB-FMSIB-DOT Highways and Local Programs – Gene Baxstrom

This study is to evaluate programs provided by four state agencies involved in local transportation services. The objective is to identify opportunities to streamline services, facilities, and partnerships and potential efficiencies that may be realized. Berk & Associates has been hired to complete the study. A preliminary evaluation is due November 15, 2010 and the final evaluation is due on December 15, 2010. The Study Meeting Information & Materials is at the following link: [local agency efficiency policy workgroup](#)

Legislation – Jeff Wilkens and Brian Smith

Two pieces of legislation have been brought together to support sustaining transportation and communities not just climate change. This was done to standardize language between WSDOT and Commerce related to the State Environmental Policy Act process and sustainability.

State Highways as Main Streets Program Proposal – Paula Reeves

Reference was made to HB 2911 the “Complete Streets Bill” in the 2010 session that indicated that 500 of the 7,000 miles of state highways are community main streets. The process will identify needs that fit into local and regional projects. The type of projects eligible for funding is very comprehensive. The folio provided includes the link and research information at [WSDOT - Research Reports - State Highways as Main Streets: A Study of Community Design and Visioning](#).

Federal Budget: FY 2011 appropriations and reauthorization – Larry Ehl

The 2011 appropriation for transportation was approved in the House but not the Senate. It is very optimistic to expect it to be passed by October 1, 2010. It may wait until the lame duck session begins on November 15, 2010. 2011 levels are expected to be similar to 2010 levels. Earmarks are down. The 2012 appropriations process will begin in January – February 2011.

Tolling may be part of the reauthorization legislation.

Senators Murray and Cantwell are sponsoring a freight bill which doesn't include highways.

An emergent issue for livability includes health implications and transportation related to obesity.

SAFETEA-LU will probably be extended to March or April 2011.

Charlie Howard asked how WSDOT will handle a rescission. Lon Wyrick answered a \$37 million reduction for Washington. A report is due August 25, 2010. The Surface Transportation Program - Urban (STP-U) will not be part of the rescission.

Glenn Miles mentioned a bill to reduce old earmarks. Larry indicated there will be a law about old unobligated earmarks back to 2007. Larry Ehl recommended everyone check their projects and re-obligate funds to other projects.

AMPO, NARC, AASHTO, and other updates – Lon Wyrick, Charlie Howard, Page Scott

Lon indicated AMPO will start committee discussion on performance measures. Page indicated there will be a NARC conference call next week about transportation issues.

4. Division Director Report and WSDOT Updates

TPO Issues – Judy Lorenzo indicated that with Bill Wiebe’s departure. She is looking at internal options. She will call each MPO/RTPO Director to share her ideas with them and solicit their input.

HSP Update – Jay Alexander was not able to attend the meeting. Judy indicated the HSP information will be sent out in the near future internally for review and then shared externally.

Preparation of SFY 2012 UPWP Guidance – Julie Rodwell remarked that the UPWP Guidance development process has begun. Julie indicated she or Judy will call each MPO/RTPO. Kirk asked if the tribes will be involved, and Julie agreed to contact him.

5. Transportation Commission Updates

Reema Griffith stated the draft Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) has been issued. The public input process has started and five listening sessions have been scheduled to get input from people on policy issues in transportation plans. The format of the sessions will include an overview of planning goals, policies, and recommendations. Small group discussions will be held about priorities in the regions.

Kirk Vinish asked if the WTP material could be presented at the TTPO Conference in October. Kirk will send conference information to Reema.

Page Scott asked how to resolve issues related to the “Top 20” project lists, especially transit. Reema added they don’t want to be overly prescriptive and will see how this evolves. Material related to the WTP is on the WTC website at: [Washington Transportation Plan \(WTP\) - Transportation Commission](#).

6. Attainment Report

Paul Ingiosi at Office of Financial Management is working on the update of the 2010 Attainment Report. He has Spokane with various agencies, and commissions and transit agencies. The update will be a tweak of the 2008 update. Please give Paul feedback on the 2008 report if you wish. Judy asked if Economic Vitality will be part of the update. The 2008 report is at [Department of Transportation Performance Report](#)

7. HUD/DOT/EPA Sustainable Communities

The federal agencies of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency are starting a “Sustainable Communities” effort. Ned Conroy and Sid Stecker attended the Sustainable Communities workshop with Glenn Miles, Mark Kushner, and Charlie Howard. The sessions were well received and the breakouts unique. Sid indicated the federal agencies must improve the way they do business at the federal level. EPA and HUD operate in a programmatic manner and DOT through planning efforts.

Mark Kushner added that challenges include how agencies can work together and how to define sustainable communities.

Charlie commented that the State of Washington Growth Management Act has provided a good base for sustainable communities.

Glenn praised the design for the meeting, which honored complex differences among jurisdictions and communities.

The DOT/HUD/EPA handout *Leveraging the Partnership: DOT, HUD, and EPA Programs for Sustainable Communities* is at the following link:

http://fta.dot.gov/documents/Sustainable_Communities_Programs_4-26-10.pdf

8. Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO)

Dean Lookingbill provided an overview of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) TSMO. It is structured around capacity needs and is a low-cost, quickly implemented, coordinated multimodal system operation for operations, planning and project development. It is designed to integrate, prioritize, implement, and measure regional needs in the project development process for the 10-year system operation plan and the 20-year system improvement plan.

9. Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs)

Glenn Miles provided an overview of the enabling legislation permitting TBDs and allowing MPOs to run them. SRTC will be exploring capital projects and programs, funding with voter approval, and funding without voter approval.

SRTC has created a very thorough and fair draft interlocal agreement. The provisions are written to not exclude any party from obtaining project approval.

The TBD presentation is at the following link:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/94642CDA-6264-4712-97E3-053F1F6DA69B/0/TBDPresentation_CCMtg082410.pdf

The draft interlocal agreement is at the following link:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/567A4DCB-5EDA-4328-9888-4A7D7D0CA1F4/0/TBDInterlocalAgmt_Draft081610.pdf

10. Executive Order 09-05 Working Group

Judy Lorenzo provided a quick update. The next meeting will be on September 23, 2010 in Spokane. Information will be provided in advance of the meeting. Judy thanked Puget Sound Regional Council, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, and Thurston Regional Planning Council for their participation in the Working Group. The four MPOs and the Coordinating Committee members are a good sounding board for this program. Judy asked that others please share their thoughts on EO 09-05 as processes and plans are developed.

11. Announcements and Review of Follow-up Items

Kirk Vinish stated the State Tribal conference is October 12 – 14, 2010 at the Tulalip Resort.

Gordon Rogers indicated that Transportation Benefit District issue for a 0.2% sales tax is going to be on the November ballot in Bellingham.

Glenn Miles stated that SRTC will engage in a Regional Transportation Plan visioning process this fall.

Julie Rodwell commented the November meeting will be at PSRC. Discussion surfaced about the possibly rotating locations for the Coordinating Committee meeting at MPO/RTPO locations throughout the state, and it was agreed that WSDOT would work on this with Directors later in the year.

Charlie Howard indicated that the recent PSRC Transportation Plan update (Transportation 2040) is being challenged by several groups. More information is on the PSRC web site at the following link: [Transportation 2040 Appeal](#) - for specific court documents click on the links on the right side of the page.

Julie Rodwell reviewed the follow-up actions from today’s meeting and commented they will be sent to the Coordinating Committee members in several days.

12. November 30, Agenda Requested Items:

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- SFY 2012 UPWP Guidance – comments on draft final for December finalization
- Status of CY 2011 TIPS
- Rail Program Update
- JTC Studies – ongoing

Standing Agenda Items:

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| • Chair’s Report | |
| • Legislative updates | Dillon Auyoung, Larry Ehl, Judy Lorenzo |
| • WSDOT report | Brian Smith |
| • Executive Order 09-05 working group | Brian S. & E.O. MPOs |
| • Public Transportation Division Report | Jerry Ayres |
| • Highway System Plan | Jay Alexander |
| • WTP/Trends report | WSTC/Judy Lorenzo |
| • National Organizations (AMPO, NARC, AASHTO) | Charlie H., Gordon R., Brian S. |
| • Highways and Local Programs | Kathleen Davis |
| • Announcements and follow ups | |

The next Coordinating Committee meeting will be November 30, 2010 at Puget Sound Regional Council. (There was an informal discussion concerning changing the start time from 9:00 am to 9:30 am).