

YAKIMA VALLEY MPO/RTPO  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of March 10, 2016

*Present:* Gary Ekstedt, Chair, Yakima County; Mike Meskimen, Gray & Osborne; Mike Battle, HLA; Byron Adams, City of Moxee; Ty Jones, City of Selah; Shane Fisher, City of Sunnyside; Menglou Wang, City of Wapato; Roger Arms, WSDOT Local Programs; Paul Gonseth, WSDOT SCR; Alan Adolf, Yakima County; Brett Sheffield, City of Yakima; Kevin Futrell, Yakima Transit; Ardele Steele, City of Zillah; YVCOG Staff: Deb LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager; Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator, Joseph Calhoun, Planner, and Tami Hayward, Office Specialist.

*Call to Order and Introductions* Chairman, Gary Ekstedt, called the March 10, 2016, MPO/RTPO TAC meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at the YVCOG Offices (311 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Yakima, WA 98901)

*Approval of Minutes* Mr. Adams moved to approve the updated minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting. Mr. Adolf seconded. The motion passed.

*Director's Update – Larry Mattson* Mr. Mattson attended MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee meeting on February 23 at PSRC's office. Issues revolved around money – the bill allowing Island County to become the 15<sup>th</sup> RTPO, and our concern of the funding pie shrinking due to that. MPO/RTPO board asked him to email Senator King, requesting the funding bucket be doubled. As yet, he hasn't received any response.

The FAST Act came out with a funding split of state 66% and local 34%. The Gang of 8 will be reconvening to look at the funding split. Governor Inslee, the Secretary of Transportation, the ranking House and Senate Transportation Committee chairs, two people from MPO/RTPOs (including Mr. Mattson someone from PSRC), and a couple additional people. No date has been set. The Governor is evidently willing to consider a change in the funding split. Our argument would be that county and cities are responsible for more roads and bridges, etc., than in the past, but the funding has not increased.

*Traffic Counts – Request Form* Mr. Calhoun advised the TAC that the Traffic Count Request Form is included in the meeting packet. This form needs to be filled out and submitted to YVCOG as soon as possible, in order to get projects scheduled, beginning the first week of April. He will send calendar requests to individuals requesting counts, in order to confirm acceptable dates.

We do not yet have the traffic counters, so we may have to begin counts a little later (2<sup>nd</sup> week of April).

Mr. Ekstedt mentioned that Yakima County is starting up their program also, in case YVCOG is unavailable in a pinch. The County charges for traffic counts and YVCOG does not.

*STP Progress Report* Mr. Curtin stated that we have received a few project updates, mainly percentages.

*CMAQ Call for Projects* Ms. LaCombe reviewed the Proposed Timeframe for 2017-2020 CMAQ Call for Projects, Memorandum, the proposed Funding Application, and the CMAQ Quantitative Scoring Criteria and Summary Sheet.

Anyone who has a project that can demonstrate a benefit to air quality in our region. As long as a project is on the TIP at the time of the acceptance letter, there should be no issue.

Mr. Sheffield moved to recommend the Proposed Timeframe for 2017-2020 CMAQ Call for Projects, Memorandum, Proposed 2017-2020 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program Funding Application, and the CMAQ Quantitative Scoring Criteria and Summary Sheet to the Policy Board for approval. Mr. Adolf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

*TAC Bylaws – Annual Review* Ms. LaCombe introduced a draft copy of the TAC Bylaws and pointed out minor proposed changes to the existing document. She will finalize the draft Bylaws and bring them before the TAC, for approval and adoption, at the April meeting.

*UPWP Interagency Meeting – Announcement*

The meeting will be held at the YVCOG offices on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to noon. She invited a TAC member to attend the meeting. An opportunity to meet face-to-face with WSDOT headquarters and feds. Mr. Ekstedt volunteered to attend.

There will be a change to the UPWP, just before the meeting, to include HSTP funding.

*March M/RTIP Amendment*

Mr. Curtin reminded members that cities and towns must have their 6-year STIP (2017-2020) adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

WSDOT is have STIP software training – Secure Access Website (SAW) on April 12<sup>th</sup> – two sessions, one a.m. and one p.m. No major changes in the software, but would be a good introduction to those who haven't used it before. Limited to 12 people per session. Brian is attending in the morning, and Deb will attend the afternoon session.

Mr. Curtin stated that the March TIP amendment has completed the public comment period. No comments were received.

Three projects involved in the March amendment: (1) City of Yakima alley paver project - CMAQ funded, (2) Yakima County North Meyers Road Bridge 502, and (3) WSDOT I-82 Selah Creek EBSRA water system improvement phase II project.

Mr. Gonseth moved to recommend the March TIP Amendment to the Policy Board for approval. Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The deadline to submit projects for an April amendment is March 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Long-Range Transportation Plan*

Ms. LaCombe informed the members that the Long-Range Transportation Plan comment period will end on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Policy Board will approve on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and it is due to WSDOT that day. We did receive a couple of comments during the public comment period. We received a comment from Paul George asking that the Plan include a plan to extend Yakima Transit from Yakima all the way to Prosser where it connect to Ben Franklin Transit. The second comment was submitted by John Hodkinson, asking that we highlight the completion of the beltway in south Union Gap. A lot of business did not want to locate on Ahtanum, due to the fact they didn't want their trucks passing by the school, and the beltway solves that challenge.

The associated SEPA was in public comment from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> and we received no comments.

Received a call from Cliff Hall requesting quite a few editing changes, and one procedural change. After the Long-Range Plan is approved, the 2016-2019 TIP no longer references the correct Long-Range Plan, so there will be some changes required, including re-adoption of the 2016-2019 TIP, and the March TIP amendment will also reference the new Long-Range plan.

The version of the Plan on the one-drive will have all of the edits included by Monday.

Ms. LaCombe requested that the TAC recommend the Long-Range Plan to the Policy Board, with the understanding that there are no substantive comments before the completion of the public comment period on March 18<sup>th</sup>, under which circumstance she will stop the process and bring it back to the TAC.

Ms. Steele moved to recommend forwarding the Long-Range Transportation Plan to the Policy Board for adoption. Mr. Adolf seconded. The motion carried.

*WSDOT State and Regional Updates*

WSDOT representatives and members reported on the current status of transportation and public works projects in their jurisdictions.

Mr. Gonseth reported that the Larry Mattson met with headquarters re the Corridor sketch methods. Working to schedule meetings with local jurisdictions to discuss state highways in your area. Road into Selah and US 12 will be getting paved this summer.

*Member Jurisdiction  
Updates*

Jurisdictions provided updates on their various projects.

*March 10, 2016  
TAC Meeting Location*

YVCOG Offices – 311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Yakima, Washington.

*Adjourn*

Chairman Ekstedt adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Gary Ekstedt, Chairman

Date signed: 5/12/16

Attest:

  
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Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager

Date signed: 5/12/16