

YVCOG TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING - SUMMARY
November 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair John Hodkinson called the November 20, 2019 special meeting of the Transportation Policy Board to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT
POLICY

It is the policy of the Transportation Policy Board to accept public comment on agenda items at the time the item is being discussed. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting.

ROLL CALL &
INTRODUCTIONS

Members present: John Hodkinson, Bill Moore, Jonathan Smith, Mike Leita, Bill Preston, and Sherry Raymond

Members present via teleconference: n/a

Members Absent: Jim Restucci*, Janice Gonzales, Brad Hill

YVCOG staff present: Chris Wickenhagen, Alan Adolf, Tami Hayward

Others present: Caitlin Delaney (Steer); Charles Jeanbart (Steer); Karissa Witthuhn (Perheet); Jan Ollivier (PFP); Louis Musso (All Aboard Washington); Trent Marquis (TRANS-Action); Paul Newman (Toppenish Chamber); Rocky Wallace (Toppenish); Jerry Bockholder ((YVR SMA – Toppenish); Lance Hoyt (Toppenish/DRYVE); Hollyanna Littlebull (Yakama Nation); Eleanor Ficele (Yakima citizen / All Aboard Washington); Laura Vazquez (Mabton); Greg Story (Yakima Transit) Dave Catterson (JTC); Ian Sproul (Steer); Racquel Farrell Crowley (Sen. Patty Murray’s office – via telephone).

*Indicates notice of absence received prior to meeting.

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE
OF THE MEETING

Dave Catterson (Joint Transportation Committee Coordinator) and Ian Sproul (Steer Group) presented the goals of the Passenger Rail Feasibility Study.

The Joint Transportation Committee is a legislative agency serving both the Senate and House transportation committees. They consist of a 4-person staff, and have been tasked with gathering information about the feasibility and support of reinstating passenger rail service. The active study of interest includes the East/West Passenger Rail Study utilizing the Stampede Pass corridor of Auburn, Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Yakima, Toppenish, Pasco, and Spokane.

They asked for information on meeting participants’ mobility patterns – where and how people travel.

Yakima Valley lost passenger rail service in October of 1981. Hollyanna Littlebull stated that there is an agreement between the federal government and the tribes, to provide free passenger rail in Wapato, Toppenish, Mabton, and White Swan.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION

Discussion followed, led by Ian Sproul, regarding upgrading existing rail systems vs. building a new rail system, owned by the state instead of BNSF. Possibility of converting trails back to rail.

Also discussed the need of looking at the project from a long-range perspective. People are not likely to travel by rail if they can reach their destination in a shorter amount of time by driving, especially if trains were to be used for commuting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

With no other business, John Hodkinson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Restucci
YVCOG Transportation Policy Board Chair

16 DEC 2019

Date signed

ATTEST:



Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist

12/16/19

Date signed