

YVCOG
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
311 N. 4th Street Conference Room, Yakima, WA 98901

MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2020

PRESENT:

Cus Arteaga, City of Grandview
Bob Desgrosellier, City of Yakima
Todd Dorsett, City of Grandview
Paul Gonseth, WSDOT
Stephen Hazzard, HLA
Dennis Henne, City of Union Gap
Lance Hoyt, City of Toppenish
Larry Mattson, Jacobs Engineering
Mike Meskimen, Gray & Osborne
Bill Preston, WSDOT
Jeff Ranger, Town of Naches
Ardele Steele, City of Zillah
Greg Story, Yakima Transit

Jase Testerman, Yakima County
Rocky Wallace, City of Toppenish
Gary Wirt, All Aboard Washington
Laura Vazquez, City of Mabton

YVCOG Staff:
Alan Adolf, Transportation Planner
Mike Shuttleworth, Planner
Lynn Deitrick, Planner
Tami Hayward, Financial Specialist
Chris Wickenhagen, Executive Director

**CALL TO ORDER AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

TAC Chair Lance Hoyt called the March 12, 2020, meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*February 2020 meeting minutes**

Bob Desgrosellier made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2020 meeting. Rocky Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

*Commuter Trip Reduction Program
Update**

Mike Shuttleworth presented.

The state continues to look at how we can expand the CTR program so that more businesses are participating voluntarily, instead of just those who are required by law to participate. This is a long process and probably won't be complete until sometime next year. We would be required to re-do our CTR contract.

Action: Information

*2020 – 2023 M/RTIP Amendment
Schedule*

Alan Adolf presented. We do expect an April TIP Amendment. Amendments due Friday, March 20th. Yakima Transit will have an amendment. Please let Alan know as soon as possible if jurisdictions have any changes to submit.

Action: Information

*STP / T-A / CMAQ Long Range
Funding Update*

Mr. Adolf provided an update on FY 2020 Funding Levels and the Federal Funding Obligation Authorization policy.

HIP funds – Union Gap was able to obligate only \$162,950.00 of the original \$228,000.00 leaving \$65,808 available for a project in rural setting (jurisdiction with a population of 5,000 or less. The money has to go to a rural project. We still have 15 months to obligate, but the sooner we can get it off the books, the better ... we want to be zeroed out and ready for more.

Moxee may be able to obligate, as a city less than \$5,000, Mabton would be able to ask for PE funds, or we can look at an outside project that TAC would approve that meets the HIP funding restrictions. Similar to STP project list.

After doing final number crunching with Nancy Huntley, on Transportation Alternatives and CMAQ, we will have any carry over, plus 2020 and 2021 funds, available as part of our call for projects. Total of \$886,041.00 available, contingent on Toppenish obligating their \$155,000.00 for the West First Street sidewalk and getting that off the books. Same situation for CMAQ funding, contingent on City of Yakima obligating their Ahtanum / 64th Avenue Intersection project and getting it off the books. There would be \$684,454.00 CMAQ funds available for a call for projects.

Ms. Wickenhagen reviewed the draft policy for Obligating Federal Funds – ensuring our region will not lose money. Suggested using first Monday in April as due date for obligating ... could request an extension to the first Monday in July. Chris asked that members think outside the box ... review the policy and let us know your ideas. *This policy goes for ALL federal funding.* This money would be sanctioned and LOST.

We need an honest critique of your projects to evaluate who is truly ready to go. Projects need to be vetted for when they can honestly be ready to go. Alternate list? We could arguably put the funds towards our “mega” projects that are already under way, such as the beltway, to keep the money in our region. A county-wide version of what the DOT does.

Chris asked that jurisdictions review projects and give Alan an actual date that projects would be ready to go.

Bill Preston asked everyone not to forget about de-obligation! Need to try to stay over-obligated.

Action: Information

Regional Traffic Count Program

Mr. Adolf reported that we have about 300 county-wide counter needs for the 2020 season.

We discussed that each jurisdiction would be allowed 20 counts per year. Some jurisdictions would be under 20 and could donate theirs to the pot for use by those who would like more than 20 counts that season.

Bill Preston stated that a contractor doing traffic counts would be a non A&E contract and would be a Direct Cost to the MPO. A consultant agreement would not be entered into.

Need your top 20 project sites. We can then put a list together to forward to a provider.

Ms. Wickenhagen asked when jurisdictions would prefer the counts take place. Most prefer June or July. Jurisdictions will send dates and sites to Alan.

Action: Information

*2020 STB-G / TAP Grant Program
Call for Projects*

Mr. Adolf will be mailing out the electronic copy of the application packet as soon as the meeting is over.

Projects that have submitted a letter of intent and have been deemed eligible are given preference over projects that have not already been submitted, although new projects are allowed to be submitted. Cannot switch out a new project for one that was previously approved – each project must be deemed eligible.

Keeping TAP dollars at \$250,000, each, giving us at least 3.5 projects that we will award according to the schedule.

At this point, Alan believes that a local match is required. It may have something to do with application deadlines. Be prepared for match, if it is required.

Applications due April 24th.

Action: Information

*Yakama Nation Heritage
Connectivity Trail Program*

Lance Hoyt went over the Talking Points presentation and provided an update on the Yakama Nation Heritage Connectivity Trail Program.

The Nation has received a technical assistance planning grant from the National Parks Service. This trail will reduce traffic fatalities and accidents. Will remove pedestrian traffic from Highway 97.

Tribal Council approved and did a kick-off press conference on February 21st. The crux of the connectivity trail would be to hook up at Union Gap Greenway trail, on down to Parker. From Parker to Wapato, and from Wapato to Toppenish, ultimately connecting to the Grandview and Sunnyside trail, and also from the Toppenish Cultural Center to White Swan and Fort Simcoe.

The Nation is also in discussions with the Wapato Irrigation Program (WIP), regarding covering some of the irrigation canals and making walking trails over the canals in a further effort to get pedestrian traffic off the roads.

Action: Information

NEW BUSINESS:

*March 2020-2023 M/RTIP
Amendment*

There was a TIP amendment in March. Public Comment Period started February 26th and ended March 11th.

Revision to the City of Union Gap's beltway project. Will be building a section of the roadway from the northwestern end, that was completed about a year ago, towards the beltway, and that will leave the interchange and grade crossing across the railroad tracks and a little more, which they will apply for separate funding. Also covering some PE phase and some right-of-way. \$8.65 million. Total project cost is \$22.2 million.

Yakima Transit – due to staffing and other difficulties, they were unable to finalize their 2019 operating assistance, amendment allows them to obligate their 2019 operating funds in the amount of \$2,168,815.00 in FTA and a matching number of local funds for a total of \$4,337,630.00.

No public comments were received.

Action: Motion by Cus Arteaga and seconded by Rocky Wallace for TAC Recommendation to Policy Board for Approval of March Amendment of 2020-2023 M/RTIP Document. The motion carried.

*2020-2045 Long Range Plan
Adoption*

Mr. Adolf reported that the public comment period and SEPA comment period are completed. There were 9 formal, written comments sent in from the DOT, All Aboard Washington, etc., and we do have our final document. Final review tomorrow with Federal Transit, EPA, Federal Highways, but most of their comments have already been given. We did add two new sections to the Plan: Performance Measures, and the Air Quality Analysis.

Air Quality Analysis does not exceed 2% growth per year. (1.49% per year)

Our projected revenues for the next 25 years is \$2.623 billion years, which does include project costs pre I-976. May do an amendment to this document once we see the effects of I-976.

We completed the survey since last TAC meeting. 265 responses, 257 were from our area. 89% say they would utilize passenger rail. 91% support return of passenger rail service; 83% think elected officials should start thinking of how we can return passenger rail service to Yakima. Also 84% have used Yakima airport, and would like a short-distance charter service, as a way to cut increased capacity at SeaTac, etc., by trying to move regional flights out of the major airports. 68% said they would be willing to use charter flights for shorter-distance flights.

78% support elected officials working to secure additional funding of pedestrian and bicycle systems; 71% think charging stations should be in our communities within 10 years; 2/3 want communities to develop guidelines for operation of driverless vehicles, and 3 out of 4 respondents want to see community guidelines for drone use in deliveries, natural disaster response, search and rescue, and law enforcement.

Action: Motion by Ardele Steele and seconded by Bob Desgrosellier for TAC Recommendation to Policy Board to adopt 2020-2045 Long Range Plan document. The motion carried.

Update 2020-2023 M/RTIP to Comply with 2020-2045 Long Range Plan (YVCOG Metropolitan & Regional Transportation Plan)

Mr. Adolf – March TIP amendment is the last amendment in concurrence with the 2016-2040 long-range plan. The existing M/RTIP is concurrent with the old document. We need to stay current by updating the resolutions to state that the 2020-2023 M/RTIP is compliant with the 2020-2045 plan. Resolutions will be sent off to DOT after Policy Board's approval.

Action: Rocky Wallace moved to recommend that Policy Board update 2020-2023 Atr Conformity and Findings resolutions to comply with 2020-2045 Transportation Plan. Cus Arteaga seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2019 Metropolitan & Regional Obligation & Closure Report

Mr. Adolf directed the TAC to table copies of the annual report, for review. YVCOG's request to increase the MPA boundary, to include county-wide, was approved last month. Because of this, this report will be the last to include obligations, closures and de-obligations for only MPO projects. Next years document will include all projects within the YVCOG region. This is a documentation exercise that the DOT has us do every calendar year, showing project standings on obligations and closures.

Action: Bob Desgrosellier moved to recommend that Policy Board adopt report and submit to WSDOT. Ardele Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Director Update

Ms. Wickenhagen had no updates, other than to let TAC members know that YVCOG staff is either in the office or working remotely and available telephone, via email, video chat, etc., during the Coronavirus epidemic. We will probably be handling our meetings remotely, or canceling, depending on how things develop.

Gary Wirt reported that the All Aboard Washington event scheduled for this weekend has been postponed.

Action: Information

Transportation Program Manager Update

Mr. Adolf reported that we completed the Title VI annual report last month. New DOT contract person. There will be training opportunities sometime after June.

No unfunded additions to UPWP. Nearly final draft. Review with State and Feds at end of April, should be approved in May.

The feasibility study for passenger rail – memo on project progress – will be sent out to those who are interested.

Lance Hoyt mentioned that the DRYVE/TRANS-Action meeting in March has been cancelled.

Action: Information

WSDOT State & Regional Update

Bill Preston mentioned that WSDOT is making a huge push for telework due to Coronavirus. Sending anyone with symptoms home. Response times may be delayed.

Action: Information

Member Updates

Grandview, Yakima, Zillah, Toppenish, and Mabton, presented project updates.

Gary Wirt, of All Aboard Washington, reported that STEER is conducting their own passenger rail survey. Hasn't been well publicized. He asked for ideas in getting people involved in taking the survey and asked if YVCOG could possibly put a link on the website.

Action: Information

Next TAC Meeting:

April 9, 2020, next TAC meeting.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Chairman Lance Hoyt adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Lance Hoyt, Chair

Date signed: 5/14/2020

Attest:



Alan Adolf, Transportation Manager

Date signed: 5/14/2020

