



MPO/RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

PRESENT:

Mike Battle – HLA
Kyle Campbell - IDAX
David Dominguez – City of Union Gap
Randy Giles – WSDOT
Paul Gonseth – WSDOT
Cliff Hall - WSDOT
Dennis Henne - City of Union Gap
Joe Henne – City of Selah
Lance Hoyt - City of Toppenish
Ty Jones – City of Selah
Janna Lewis-Clark - Pahto
Mike Meskimen - Gray & Osborne
Matt Pietrusiewicz - Yakima County

Bill Preston – City of Yakima
Mark Skaggs - IDAX
Ardele Steele - City of Zillah
Greg Story – Yakima Transit
Jase Testerman - Yakima County
Gary Wirt – All Aboard Washington

YVCOG Staff:
Alan Adolf, Transportation Manager
Tami Hayward, Financial Specialist
Jodi Smith, Communications Specialist
Jeff Watson, Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

TAC Chair, Lance Hoyt, called the March 11, 2021, meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes Joe Henne made a motion to approve the [MINUTES for February 11, 2021](#) meeting. Bill Preston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CORRESPONDENCE

Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager

The [2021-24 MRTIP Amendment Calendar](#) was reviewed.
Expecting an April TIP amendment.
Submittal deadline is 3/19 (next Friday)

[Federal Community Project Funding](#) (Earmarks)

Senator Murray has sent out 'Community Driven Funding' forms – for funds that are *NOT* earmarked.
Infrastructure Priority Solicitation forms are due in next several days.
Quite a few forms from our area being submitted to Senator Murray's office.
Please inform Alan if you submit a transportation request; please also cc Paul Gonseth or Randy Giles if your request involves state highways.

[“Build-to-Scale” Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (Senator Murray)

Program is through the US Economic Development Association
Application deadline is 4/29/2021
Please give Raquel Crowley a head's up if you are planning to apply for either of Senator Murray's grant funding opportunities.

[2021 WSDOT Freight & Goods Transportation Survey](#) (FGTS) Update

WSDOT requests YVCOG to update this survey every two years – inventory list updates for the freight and goods transportation system
Won't receive the formal request until the first week of April
Will break up master list into individual jurisdictions for comments, consideration for changing freight routes to be reported during this process.
(New) Optional element – first and last mile connectors (T1 and T2 primary routes)

Action: Information

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2021 Traffic Count Program Update

Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager / Kyle Campbell and Mark Skaggs, IDAX

The Policy Board approved contracting with IDAX for this year's traffic counts on February 17th.

- Finalizing the contract.
- Will be starting counts around the 1st of April

Mark Skaggs, IDAX COO, gave a brief presentation of their "Turnstone" online traffic counter application.

- This application is revolutionary. Creating a centralized geo-plotted traffic count (online) inventory that can be maintained even if IDAX no longer performs counts.
- The platform will support data gathered from other counts, not only those counts performed by IDAX.
- Small ingestion and hosting fees.
- Goal is to build a data warehouse that everyone can utilize.

Ingestion and hosting fees would be paid by COG with no charge to the jurisdictions.

Action: Information / Discussion of jurisdictional submission of historic traffic count data for inclusion into "Turnstone" archival application

SFY 2022-2023 Unified Planning & Work Program Update

Lance Hoyt, TAC Chairman, and Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager

- The initial 2-year draft has been completed.
- If you want a sneak peek, contact Alan.
- Final review draft needs to be to DOT by the end of March
- Be prepared for a variety of planning tasks that may come up – database and technical opportunities (funded through STP funds and other revenues), etc.
- Will be formally presented to TAC and Policy Board, for adoption, in May.

Action: Information

West Powerhouse Road Study Update

Paul Gonseth (WSDOT), and Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager

Alan Adolf:

- Presenting the [West Powerhouse Road Study](#) work agreement to Policy Board on Monday.
- Hoping to get started on it soon ... there is a meeting this afternoon.
- TAC has already given its recommendation to move it forward.

Paul Gonseth:

- Overall scope is just figuring out what needs to be done on the West Powerhouse area.
- All planning staff time will be charged to WSDOT
- COG will reimburse expenses WSDOT is unable to cover – traffic counts, modeling analysis, etc.
- This afternoon is the team kick off – identifying purpose and need of the study.
- A joint project between WSDOT, Yakima County, and City of Yakima.

Action: Information

NEW BUSINESS:

March 2021-2024 M/RTIP Amendment

Lance Hoyt, TAC Chairman, and Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager

[March M/RTIP Amendment](#)

- The Public Comment Period closed on 3/11/2021.
- No public comments were received.
- There are three amendments – two for the City of Selah, and one for WSDOT.

Action: Jase Testerman moved for the TAC recommendation to Policy Board for approval of January Amendment of 2021-2024 M/RTIP. Ardele Steele seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STP Award Letter - Yakima's E. Nob Hill and Fair Avenue Intersection Project (FY 2024 Funds)

Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager, and Bill Preston, City of Yakima

Alan Adolf:

- [Obligation Authorization Update](#) - Review of minor revisions to the spreadsheet.
- Coming up on April 1st WSDOT – asking that we give them an update on the intent of projects being obligated for 2021 projects. Will be reaching out to in the next couple of weeks.
- Will be submitting our TIP amendment for upcoming UPWP year for STP planning funds. An increase from \$299,000 to \$423,382 – will allow performing traffic counts, modeling, Powerhouse study, etc. Also hoping to hire a new planner in the next month or two.
- FAST Act was extended until 9/30/2021. Conversations with Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell - they are beginning the process to reauthorize. Between that and stimulus interest, there is a lot of interest in investing heavily in infrastructure.
- Request made by City of Yakima for a funding letter regarding their E. Nob Hill and Fair Avenue Intersection project. This project dates back to 2006. We are prepared to provide them a 'reasonably expected' letter stating that they are expected to receive their funding in 2024.

Bill Preston:

- The City is planning to move forward on the E. Nob Hill and Fair Avenue Intersection Project. They need a 'reasonably expected' award letter to complete their funding package.

Action: Jase Testerman moved that TAC recommend Policy Board Authorize Executive Director to sign funding letter confirming anticipated availability of FY 2024 Funds. Dennis Henne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CY 2020 Metropolitan and Regional Obligations & Closures Report

Lance Hoyt, TAC Chairman, and Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager

[Obligations & Closures Report](#) – this report is put together each year at this time. Document is basically the same as last year, except we are now an MPA, meaning all jurisdictions within the county will now be included in the report, rather than just those within the MPO.

Will be provided to DOT after adoption by Policy Board.

Action: Dennis Henne moved to recommend Policy Board adoption of the CY 2020 Obligation & Closures Report for submittal to WSDOT. Paul Gonseth seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Director Update

No update this month.

WSDOT State & Regional Update

Paul Gonseth:

- WSDOT is preparing for the Powerhouse kick-off meeting.
- In the process of applying for infra-grant for replacing the bridge deck on I-90 at Vantage. This project will take about 3 years to complete. Major traffic impacts.

Action: Information

Member Updates

The following jurisdictions/agencies provided updates:

- All Aboard Washington
- CTR Program
- Pahto
- Selah
- Toppenish
- Union Gap
- WSDOT (Cliff Hall explained that jurisdictions must belong to an MPO in order to be eligible for federal funding)
- City of Yakima

Action: Information

Next TAC Meeting:

April 8, 2021, next TAC meeting.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Chairman Lance Hoyt adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Lance Hoyt, Chair

Date signed: 4/8/2021

Attest:



Alan Adolf, Transportation Manager

Date signed: 4/8/2021