

YVCOG TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 21, 2022

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman John Hodkinson called the November 21, 2022, meeting of the Transportation Policy Board to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

- Members present via Zoom teleconference: Jim Restucci (by phone), John Hodkinson, Ron Anderson, Jose Trevino (Z), Patricia Byers, Sherry Raymond, Jose Trevino (Z), Todd Trepanier (Z)).
- Members Absent: Janice Gonzales, Madelyn Carlson and Jon Smith
- YVCOG staff present: Alan Adolf, Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Tami Hayward (Z), Jodi Smith (Z), and Chris Wickenhagen
- Others present: none

*\*Indicates notice of absence received prior to meeting.  
(Z) Attended via Zoom*

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES\* Patricia Byers moved to approve the October 17, 2022 Policy Board meeting minutes. Ron Anderson seconded. The motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CORRESPONDENCE *Alan Adolf, Regional Transportation Planning Manager*

**Final FFY 2022 Local Delivery Summary** – we received the final summary of FY 22 federal obligation authority. In addition to the \$1.5 million we received for the Sunnyside, Selah, and Union Gap projects, we received an extra \$12,000 in redistributed funds which was added to our general fund to cover costs of projects this year.

**Transit Feasibility Study Open House** – public meeting last Tuesday. It was a hybrid event and we had a reasonable showing. Received some good feedback and notes on corrections to some of the results. Formal study information will be available in December and the final document will be presented to Policy Board in January 2023.

**Response Letter** – earlier this year the Policy Board approved a letter in partnership with All Aboard Washington, seeking Governor Inslee’s support for the Passenger Rail ID program. We received a response from WSDOT that at this point they are not inclined to move forward with additional passenger rail planning for central Washington. We still hope to participate as an MPO/RTPO.

***Information***

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*2023-2026 MRTIP Federal Review* *Alan Adolf, Regional Transportation Programs Manager*

The Federal Air Quality Conformity review was held on October 31<sup>st</sup>. After review by both federal and state agencies, we received approval of our 2023

MRTIP. We will still be addressing PM10 through March of 2025 but are no longer required to address carbon monoxide emissions.

The statewide STIP should be approved in December or January.

***Information***

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Federal Transportation Funding Program Changes for FY 2023* Alan Adolf

Met with WSDOT last week discussing federal transportation funding.

**STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant)** – traditionally our construction project pot. Received \$4.6 million in funding this last year and should be very similar this year. Some new eligibilities such as EV charging stations, wildlife crossing projects, etc. In most cases, for the next couple of years, we can fund at 100%. There is a new distribution range this year.

**TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program)** – reaffirms funding for Safe Routes to School projects and includes some new eligibilities such as vulnerable road user assessments, expansion of eligible applicants including non-profits without being partnered with a member jurisdiction. WSDOT is also eligible at the request of another entity.

**CMAQ (Commute Mitigation & Air Quality)** – no significant changes other than purchase of diesel replacements, purchase of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles and charging equipment, shared micro mobility programs. These will be part of the CMAQ Call for Projects we will be announcing next month.

**CRP (Carbon Reduction Program)** – This is a new funding program. Eligible projects include bicycle/pedestrian facilities, energy efficient streetlighting and traffic control devices, projects supporting deployment of alternative fuel vehicles including EV charging stations, public transportation projects, IT capital improvements, transportation demand management activities, etc. We have received \$666,000 for FY '22, but the state does not yet have guidance – so we will have 2 years to spend 3 years' worth of money. We can use the CMAQ Call for Projects to get a list of projects in place.

*2020 TAP: Proposal for Reconsideration of Awards*

Alan Adolf

We have been provided an opportunity by Local Highways to award the 5 previously unfunded TAP applications, including the cost difference created by inflation. This is possible because of the new federal transportation bill.

Original project costs for the five 2020 unfunded projects would have been about \$1.7 million, but due to inflation the cost has increased by nearly \$400,000 and would now be almost \$2 million.

- Grandview - \$189,000 in STP set aside (Wine Country Road sidewalk and pathway improvements)
- Harrah - \$592,650 (Branch Road and school sidewalk improvements)
- Naches/Yakima County - \$389,380 (Naches Community Pavillion project) – this project actually decreased due to removing part of the project that has already been completed
- Union Gap - \$399,110 (Main Street pedestrian crossing improvements)
- Zillah – \$417,120 (3rd Street sidewalk improvement project)

We currently have in excess of \$2.5 million available in TAP funds. The total project costs for all 5 projects are well within our budget. Harrah is construction ready.

The TAC has reviewed this over the last couple of months and has recommended forwarding to the Policy Board for approval.

*Decision: Ron Anderson moved for the Policy Board to authorize Executive Director to sign Transportation Alternatives Program award letters to 2020 unfunded applicants. Patricia Byers seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*City of Grandview STBG  
Augmentation Award Letter*

*Alan Adolf*

The City of Grandview has requested an additional \$1,168,700 2023 STBG funds to augment their Old Inland Empire Highway (Grandridge Road to Elm Street) project.

This is one of the last remaining projects of the 2013 STP project list and costs have increased over the last 10 years.

TAC has recommended that this project be made whole. We currently have \$1,811,200 in available STBG funding.

*Decision: Patricia Byers moved to authorize Executive Director to sign the STBG fund augmentation letter for City of Grandview’s “Old Inland Empire Highway” Project. Ron Anderson seconded. The motion carried.*

*WSDOT State & Regional  
Update*

*Todd Trepanier, WSDOT South Central Region*

Todd and Alan participate in a **statewide group reviewing how to better align investment choices** – hoping the legislature will look to this group when making these decisions. This work is starting to identify some things that need to happen, including a workshop that some of the YVCOG leadership will be invited to participate in, early next year, in order to get this communication and understanding at a whole different level.

**Making a switch on how we consider the safety of our workforces** out on the highways. We have put moving traffic above contractor/employee safety and convenience in the past few years, but are going to be changing that, resulting in more daytime work hours and means inconvenience for the public.

**Winter driving is here** and passes are closing frequently because of the drivers: they are ill-prepared (mainly with their tires); drivers are not following the speed limits – speed limits are set for a reason; and, drivers are ignoring traction requirements such as when chains are required.

There are too many people doing these things to expect the State Patrol to issue tickets. Snoqualmie pass has anywhere between 24,000 and 50,000 vehicles driving over it per day, so it isn't feasible to drive each of those vehicles through a gauntlet to check for adequate tire and traction requirements.

The passes are being closed because the drivers are not driving wisely and WSDOT is hoping to prevent accidents.

**Information**

*Washington Transportation Commission Update*

*James Restucci, YVCOG Executive Committee Chair and WSTC Rep*

The Commission is moving forward with a new project – Forward Drive outreach pilot project. More information after next month's meeting.

**Information**

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Policy Board meeting will be held December 19, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no other business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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James A. Restucci  
YVCOG Transportation Policy Board Chair

1/19/2023  
Date signed

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist

1/25/2023  
Date signed