

YVCOG TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman, John Hodkinson, called the November 20, 2023, meeting of the Transportation Policy Board to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL &  
INTRODUCTIONS

- Members present: James Restucci (Z), John Hodkinson, LaDon Linde, Patricia Byers, Janice Gonzales, Sherry Raymond, and Brian White
  - Members Absent: Madelyn Carlson, Jon Smith, and Jose Trevino
  - YVCOG staff present: Alan Adolf, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward (Z), and Chris Wickenhagen
- Others present: Elizabeth Alba, TAC Vice Chair

*\*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.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved under the Consent Agenda:

- October 16, 2023, Minutes
- YVCOG 2023 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Update

***Decision:** Sherry Raymond moved to approve the Consent Agenda items. Patricia Byers seconded. The motion carried.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND  
CORRESPONDENCE

*Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager*

Mr. Adolf reviewed the results of the 2024-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan public engagement events; the results of the 2024-2027 M/RTIP Air Quality Conformity Review; Dennis Henne, TAC Chair, will be retiring at the end of the year and Elizabeth Alba and Rocky Wallace have agreed to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for 2024 and 2025; and he also addressed the departure of long-time TAC members Cus Arteaga of Grandview and Joe Henne of Selah.

***Information***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*Alan Adolf*

None.

NEW BUSINESS

*Town of Naches "Naches Trail Improvement Project" Funding Augmentation Letter*

*Alan Adolf*

Naches has requested an additional \$225,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant construction funds to augment the project's primary funding award.

**Decision:** *Janice Gonzales moved to authorize Executive Director to sign Naches Trail Project funding augmentation letter and submit to the Town of Naches. Patricia Byers seconded. The motion carried.*

*Restoring Capacity of Washington’s Regional Transportation Planning Organizations*

*Chris Wickenhagen, YVCOG Executive Director*

Ms. Wickenhagen addressed the fact that the current statewide RTPO planning funding level has remained at \$4.4 million for 34 years now and there has been no increase in planning funds during this time other than a single \$500,000 increase in the late 2010s which was distributed (by formula) between all Washington RTPOs.

She requested approval to send a letter to the legislature, signed by the YVCOG Chair and other state RTPO chairs, requesting an additional \$12 million in state RTPO funding.

**Discussion and Decision:** *LaDon Linde moved to authorize Chair to sign “Restoring Capacity of Washington’s Regional Transportation Planning” letter. Patricia Byers seconded. The motion carried.*

WSDOT STATE & REGIONAL UPDATE

*Brian White, WSDOT South Central Regional Administrator*

- Quite a lot of turnover at WSDOT, even if the lower ranks. Hoping to hire 3 “assistant regional administrators” in December.
- Wrapping up 2023 construction season.
- Opened bids on Interstate 90 - Vantage bridge deck replacement project – went with Graco. If you’re going to Spokane this next year, you might want to go through Tri-Cities (Via Hwy 395 and I-82). Will have one lane each direction open. The bid was \$67 million - \$10 million over, but it was expected.
- Our preservation projects are being neglected with most of the money going to larger projects on the west side.

**Information**

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION UPDATE

*James Restucci, WSTC Representative*

Mr. Restucci provided an update on recent Washington Transportation Commission meetings held in Tri-Cities this last week.

Pasco had a population increase of 40% in 10 years – huge.

Were able to tour the site of the Pearl and Oyster facilities (Amazon)

If the lower Snake River dams are removed, it will require 42,000 more rail cars or 152,000 additional trucks in one year’s time to handle the cargo normally moved on the river – and none of our rail or road systems can handle that extra load.

**Information**

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Policy Board meeting will be held December 18, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no other business, Vice Chair Hodkinson adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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 John Hodkinson  
 YVCOG Transportation Policy Board Vice Chair

1/22/2024

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Date signed

ATTEST:

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 Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist