

Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council

Columbia Station, 3rd Floor Conference Room

300 South Columbia, Wenatchee

April 8, 2010 – 9:00 A.M. to 11:40 A.M.

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Russell Clark, City of Rock Island

Dan Sarles, WSDOT

Richard DeRock, Link Transit

George Buckner, City of East Wenatchee

Mike Mackey, Port of Chelan County

Dennis Johnson, City of Wenatchee

Ken Stanton, Douglas County

Mark Spurgeon, Port of Douglas

Keith Goehner, Chelan County

Elmira Forner, WA Transportation
Commission

STAFF:

Jeff Wilkens, Executive Director

Kathy Bruno, Administrative Specialist/Clerk of the Board

Nick Manzano, Transportation Planner

GUESTS:

Gordon Irle, City of Cashmere

Paul Mahre, WSDOT

Steve Hair, KOHO/KOZI

Lilith Yanagimachi, Chelan County

Shiloh Schauer, Senator Linda Parlette

Don McGahuey, City of East Wenatchee

Dave Honsinger, WSDOT

Dale Snyder, Douglas County

Patrick Walker, Chelan/Douglas Land Trust

Lauren Rejniak, Chelan County

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Spurgeon at 9:00 a.m.

2) INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

Introductions were made around the room.

3) CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda including the February 11th and February 24, 2010 minutes, check numbers 224645-224660 in the amount of \$44,023.08 for March and check numbers 225788-225798 in the amount of \$11,904.80 for April, and payroll in the amount of \$21,143.15 for February and \$23,057.87 for March was approved on a motion by Ken Stanton. George Buckner abstained, as he was not in attendance.

4) OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Snyder commented that the legislature allocated money for the Joint Transportation Committee (JCT) to continue studying the consolidation of the County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB). CRAB is concerned that the option of keeping things as they are is foreclosed by the legislative directions for the study. Representative Armstrong said that has been clarified and the JTC will look at all options. The study is to be completed by December 1, 2010. A recommendation will be presented to the legislature during the 2011 session. Shiloh Schauer with Senator Parlette's office stated there seems to have been a compromise reached on the state budget, so the special session should end Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

5) BUSINESS ITEMS AND REPORTS

5(a) Director's Report

Jeff Wilkens reported on the following:

- Announced that Patrick Walker will be joining the WVTC as the new planner. His start date will be May 3, and he will be working on the Coordinated Human Services Plan, the Non-Motorized Plan, and other transit issues.
- Gave a brief update on the SR 285 North Wenatchee Avenue study. He is hoping to have a 3-hour work session at the June 10th meeting to include the City of Wenatchee Council, Chelan County Commissioners, PUD and Port District Commissioners to make a decision between the options that will be presented.
- Participated in a presentation to the Transportation Improvement Board a couple of weeks ago. This was a good opportunity to show the board our local projects that they have helped fund. Richard DeRock noted that he has been appointed to sit on this board, but the Governor is waiting to see what the outcome of the Joint Transportation Committee study and recommendation will be before signing the approval.

- Attended the Cashmere City Council meeting in March, as they have a general interest in joining the MPO. Cashmere will have to submit a formal request and then the board will have further discussion at that time. Jeff will present more information on other MPO boundaries in the state, and how this MPO boundary was determined, if and when a formal request is received from Cashmere.
- Traveled with Mark Spurgeon to Washington D.C. in March to attend a transportation conference, and was also able to meet with the Chief of Staff for Representative Hastings and the Appropriations staff for Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray. All three were very receptive to the funding needs for the Cascade Interchange and interested in the North Wenatchee Avenue study, and they also indicated that they are hearing support from others regarding rural communities and their issues in the new transportation authorization bill. Mark Spurgeon stated Secretary LaHood spoke on more transportation alternatives for future growth in the system rather than continuing to build more and more highways. The administration doesn't want to back away from highways, but they are focusing on the alternative modes for a new authorization bill. The Secretary indicated no interest in increasing the gas tax.
- Jeff was asked to submit a regional issues summary for the Washington Transportation 2030 Plan. He discussed the document, and the board approved of the issues.
- Representative Mike Armstrong gave an update on the transportation and budget issues for the state during this last session.
- Jeff noted there will be another round of Enhancements funding of \$452,000 for the NCRTPO, and they will have until November to submit the projects. There will not be a statewide process this time; all funding will be allocated by RTPOs.
- Has been asked to participate in a case study on Rural Planning Organizations by the General Administration Office (GAO). They will be in Washington state early June.
- The new WVTC website is up and running.

5(b) Member Roundtable

Ken Stanton with Douglas County reported that the issue with the developer in the Eastmont Extension area seems to have been resolved. The county is hoping to go to bid on bridge construction within 10 days.

Richard DeRock with Link Transit stated that they have received the \$2.5 million earmark that will pay off the debt on the buses; this will make the agency fiscally stable through 2012. March was the first month in more than a year that ridership has risen. Link has awarded a contract to E-Bus for the five electric trolleys. The charging mechanism has been re-designed, so rather than being totally open and exposed to weather, it will now be totally enclosed. The electric trolleys should be fully operational by September.

There should be a decision from FTA next month regarding the funding for the East Wenatchee Mall project. Link has begun their 20-year comprehensive transit plan and will be working with the MPO staff.

Russell Clark with the City of Rock Island stated that the city will be resurfacing most of their roads because of the installation of the sewer system.

Elmira Forner with the Washington Transportation Commission reported that they are working on the Washington Transportation Plan. The Commission will be hiring a full time fiscal analyst.

Keith Goehner with Chelan County stated that the county is working on the West Monitor Bridge. The county is hoping to receive an easement agreement by April 15 so the bridge can go to bid and be awarded by May 18, 2010 to begin construction June 1, 2010 and completed in spring of 2011. The Upper Squilchuck project should be completed this summer. They are still waiting to hear something regarding the "Jobs Bill".

Dan Sarles with WSDOT gave a brief update on their status. He reported the Sellar Bridge is coming along and work should start on the south side of the bridge next month. Most of the work being done now is reinforcement on the underside. All five lanes should be ready by the end of the year. WSDOT started looking at the eastside portion yesterday. The pedestrian bridge on Stevens Pass has been awarded, but they won't be able to start until it stops snowing. Paul Mahre stated that some of the ARRA projects that were awarded last year have begun. Snoqualmie Pass work will begin again soon.

George Buckner with the City of East Wenatchee reported that the city is looking at putting in a pedestrian crossing at Grant Road and Georgia Street. There have been two recent pedestrian-car accidents at this intersection and needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Dennis Johnson with the City of Wenatchee reported that the right turn lane for southbound traffic on Wenatchee Avenue onto Maiden Lane will begin construction after Apple Blossom. Walmart has initiated permits to begin the store expansion. The city is also exploring the maximum allowed (without a vote) car tab fee of \$20 and will conduct public meetings to seek input. The city is also putting in a turn lane on Orondo and Chelan streets. The red light cameras will be operational by June 1, and the fines will be implemented August 1, 2010.

Mark Spurgeon reported that the Port of Quincy is having an Open House on Tuesday, April 20 at noon for the intermodal facility and the "Cold Train". He encouraged the members to attend.

Mike Mackey with the Port of Chelan County stated that they are working with the City of Cashmere on the Mill site and Sunset Highway.

5(c) FY 2011 Work Program

Jeff will present the draft budget and work program at the next meeting. He stated that the key issues he will be focusing on in the Unified Planning Work Program are:

1. Finishing the North Wenatchee Avenue study
2. Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan
3. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update
4. Planning Studies for passing lanes and of a 3rd Columbia River Bridge within the metropolitan boundary.

5(d) I-90 Sound Transit Discussion

After some discussion it was decided not to take any action on the issue of the I-90 Sound Transit lawsuit, per former Senator Jim Horn's presentation in February.

6) New Business

Jeff passed around information on a spring Aviation conference to be held by the Washington State Community Airport Association in Wenatchee on April 22 & 23, 2010.

7) ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ken Stanton at 10:54 a.m.

APPROVED ON May 13, 2010.

ATTEST:

Mark Spurgeon, Chairman

(Signatures on file)

Jeff Wilkens

Executive Director

