

# Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council

Columbia Station, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

300 South Columbia, Wenatchee

May 13, 2010 – 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

## MEETING MINUTES

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### ATTENDEES:

Russell Clark, City of Rock Island

Dan Sarles, WSDOT

Mark Spurgeon, Port of Douglas

Steve Lacy, City of East Wenatchee

Dennis Johnson, City of Wenatchee

Richard DeRock, Link Transit

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

Patrick Walker, Transportation Planner

### GUESTS:

Gordon Irle, City of Cashmere

Paul Mahre, WSDOT

Steve Hair, KOHO/KOZI

Lilith Yanagimachi, Chelan County

Lauren Rejniak, Chelan County

Mark Keller, Columbia NW Engineers

Don McGahuey, City of East Wenatchee

Dave Honsinger, WSDOT

Steve King, City of Wenatchee

Doug Bramlette, Douglas County

Thom Kutrich, Forsgren Associates

### 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 April 8<sup>th</sup> minutes, check numbers 226798-226818 in the amount of \$15,099.56 for May, and payroll in the amount of \$23,755.92 for April was approved on a motion by Richard DeRock.

### **4) OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **5) BUSINESS ITEMS AND REPORTS**

#### **5(a) Director's Report**

Jeff Wilkens reported on the following:

- The Washington State Transportation Commission is working on the draft Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). The Commission's intention is to produce a policy plan, but was recently directed by the legislature to provide an extensive statewide project list. The proviso stated the list should include constrained and unconstrained projects. Jeff stated this issue will be discussed at the next MPO Coordinating Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 18.
- WVTC will be recognizing Bike to Work week, from May 17-21. Patrick Walker has been working with the Bicycle Advisory Group, interviewed on KPQ, and contacted the local Chambers of Commerce. WVTC staff and volunteers will be doing a bicycle count next Thursday evening and Friday morning. The overall goal is to make people aware of bicycling for transportation by recognizing the annual event.
- Nick Manzano reported that he is working with WSU to develop a household travel survey. The questions will pertain to travel preference, current behavior and what tradeoffs could be for the future, perspectives on transit, willingness to pay, etc. This will be a component of the public outreach for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update.

#### **5(b) Member Roundtable**

Steve Lacy with the City of East Wenatchee reported that there is continued public concern regarding a pedestrian crossing at Grant Road and Georgia Street. The City wanted to install the signal at the same

time as the paving project, but is now looking at installing the signal as soon as possible because of the safety issue.

Richard DeRock with Link Transit provided an update on the electric bus project. The Federal Administration has approximately \$1 billion leftover from money that has not been spent, so have recently announced new transit grant opportunities. The applications are due June 14, 2010. Link Transit will be applying for second and third phases of the electric buses, along with some capital improvements.

Elmira Forner with the Washington State Transportation Commission provided a status report on the Washington Transportation Plan update goals.

Dan Sarles reported that work has started on the south side of the Sellar Bridge. Link Transit is providing free rides to people across the bridge, but WSDOT is paying for the service. He also stated that the rock stabilization project on Hwy 97A is continuing, also working on the eastside of the bridge approach.

Keith Goehner with Chelan County reported that the Squilchuck and Chumstick projects are progressing, but West Monitor Bridge had a funding issue, so it won't be going to bid as soon as they thought.

Russell Clark with the City of Rock Island stated that there are several streets torn up in the city because of the installation of the new collection system.

Steve King with the City of Wenatchee reported that there are only three weeks of work left on the pedestrian bridge, but work has been slow because of the high winds. He also stated that work on the turn lane extensions at North Wenatchee Avenue and Maiden Lane and Horse Lake Road have begun. The city is also working on installation of the red light cameras.

Doug Bramlette with Douglas County reported that the Canyon B Bridge has gone to bid, and there will be a five-week bid process. The bridge will take two years to complete, and then the work on the roadway should begin in 2012.

Mark Spurgeon with Douglas County Port District reported that the Airport Board is in negotiations with a candidate for the Airport Manager. There should be a decision within the next two weeks.

Jeff Wilkens reported that both federal Senators submitted their earmarks for the appropriations list. The WVTC request for the Cascade Interchange did not make Senator Cantwell's list, but it did make Senator Murray's list. Keith Goehner stated that the City of Wenatchee's project from Miller to Fuller Streets for updates in the hospital area was also on the list. Douglas County's Chief Joseph Bridge also made the list.

Richard DeRock commented that unless the transportation funding deficit gets corrected, the administration has stated there will not be any earmarks.

Dave Honsinger with WSDOT reported that WSDOT coordinated with Chelan County on a small, low cost bicycle eastbound on-ramp project onto the 4 ft. shoulder of the acceleration lane of the highway. The bicycle lane comes off of Tichenal Way in Cashmere towards Wenatchee.

### **5(c) FY 2011 Preliminary Budget**

Jeff Wilkens passed around the preliminary budget and explained that he had reviewed everything with the Executive Committee on Monday. He explained how the reserves work, and stated that the Executive Committee recommended not to raise member dues again this year. Jeff explained that the proposed budget includes a cost of living increase. He stated the Committee looked at two different reference points, and decided to use the West Coast Urban CPI average for January, February and March of 2010 to determine a 1.6% COLA. After some discussion it was decided to look at the most recent 12-month average of the west coast urban CPI to get a better calculation for a possible COLA for staff. He was asked to bring back two budget options, one with a COLA option and one without to the next meeting. The board also decided to initiate a review of other MPO Director salaries.

### **5(d) SR 285 North Wenatchee Avenue Transportation Master Plan Update**

Jeff reminded the board that next month's meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Confluence Technology Center. Following a short business meeting, the meeting will be a work session for the SR 285 North Wenatchee Avenue Study. He stated that WVTC will be inviting the city councils, county commissioners, PUD commissioners, WSDOT and Port Districts for their attendance and input. He gave the board a brief overview of the current option, and an Olds Station interchange. These will be shown in more detail at next month's meeting.

**5(e) Review of Upcoming Grant Opportunities**

Jeff explained there are some very non-traditional grants for transportation, and he would like to take advantage of an opportunity to try to secure funding for new aerial photography, and possibly building a GIS foundation for a 50-year planning vision based on mapping and possible growth patterns. Richard DeRock stated that this would help better service various areas with a more valley wide concept. Jeff will continue working with TAC on the issue.

**5(f) Legislative Update: Larry Ehl, WSDOT Federal Liaison**

Larry Ehl was unable to attend; agenda item skipped.

**6) New Business**

No items were brought forward as new business.

**7) ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Richard DeRock at 11:10 a.m.

APPROVED ON June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

ATTEST:

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Mark Spurgeon, Chairman

**(Signatures on file)**

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Jeff Wilkens  
Executive Director

