

North Central Regional Transportation Planning Organization

City Hall

135 East Johnson, Chelan

Wednesday, April 14th, 2010

1:30-3:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Gail Howe, City of Pateros	Doug England, Chelan County
Dave Acheson, Town of Winthrop	Ken Stanton, Douglas County
Andy Lampe, Okanogan County	Russell Clark, City of Rock Island
Dan Sarles, WSDOT	George Buckner, City of East Wenatchee
Gordon Irle, City of Cashmere	Chris Branch, City of Oroville
Mike Mackey, Port of Chelan County	Jennifer Korfiatis, NCW EDD
Elmira Forner WA Transportation Commission	Jim Bailey, City of Wenatchee
John Sackman, City of Omak	JD Smith, City of Brewster
Susan Driver, City of Entiat	Leanne Leifer, Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition

STAFF: Jeff Wilkens, Executive Director
 Kathy Bruno, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

GUESTS:

Dave Honsinger, WSDOT	Paul Mahre, WSDOT
Jim Reinbold, City of Chelan	

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Mackey at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no new items added to the agenda. The February 10th, 2010 minutes were approved on a motion by Ken Stanton, with a change on page 3 under Chris Branch's report to read as follows: "He also stated that the pedestrian trailhead in Oroville, as part of the Similkameen Trail has received the funding," rather than describing the projects "completed".

3. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS AND REPORTS

4(a) Director's Report

Jeff Wilkens reported on the following topics:

- Congress still has not made a decision on a second round of stimulus funding for transportation infrastructure.
- Discussed the Washington Transportation Plan regional issues summary that was submitted to WSDOT highlighting key issues for North Central Washington.
- The General Administration Office is doing a case study of RTPOs and rural planning, and will be visiting Wenatchee to talk with him in June.
- The Transportation Commission will be meeting in Omak on September 21, 2010. Jeff Wilkens and Chris Branch said they would be willing to work with the City of Omak with the advanced planning of this meeting.
- The Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) has been directed by the Governor to study options for consolidating the County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) under the administration of WSDOT. The committee will complete the report with recommendations to the legislature by December 2010.
- The JTC will also be evaluating all transportation planning in the state looking for more efficiency.
- The legislature has directed the State Transportation Commission to compile a list of all transportation investment needs in the state. This report is also due back to the legislature by December 2010.
- Passed around the new section of the greenhouse gas reduction bill pertaining to state agencies that went into effect in 2010. One of the state's goals is to reduce driving. Jeff commented that he's not sure what the definition of "projects in rural areas" means in this legislation, but is anxious to find out.
- Patrick Walker has joined the staff as a second planner - he will be tasked with the non-motorized issues, and the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan update.

4(b) FY 2011 Work Program

Jeff went through the key work program issues for the rural areas, and explained that the budget figures would be added once the actual draft budget is finished. The FY 2011 Work Program rural portion was approved by consensus.

4(c) NCRTPPO Enhancement Funding and Upcoming "Call For Projects"

Congress passed another extension of SAFETEA-LU through the end of this year, so there will be another round of enhancement project funding. The NCRTPPO will receive \$452,000 for this round of projects. The deadline for prioritizing the list of projects is November 1, 2010, but Jeff recommended getting the process started right away. After some discussion a sub-committee was appointed to score and rank the projects and then present the projects back to the full board for approval. The committee will also help with the development of the criteria and help decide the timeline. The committee will consist of Andy Lampe, Ken Stanton, Chris Branch, Russell Clark, Doug England, Mike Mackey and Jennifer Korfiatis. Paul Mahre from WSDOT will also be present during the committee meetings to answer any questions.

4(d) I-90 Sound Transit Discussion

Chair Mike Mackey reminded the board that former Senator Jim Horn had made a presentation at the last meeting, explaining the 18th amendment writ of prohibition on the I-90 Sound Transit issue. After some discussion, it was decided that the NCRTPPO would not take action.

4(e) Via 97 Update

Jeff Wilkens explained that there have been ongoing monthly meetings, but lately the group has been re-evaluating the direction of Via 97. No decisions were made, but this issue will be brought back at the next meeting to decide if the NCRTPPO should stay involved.

4(f) Okanogan County Area Updates

- Andy Lampe with Okanogan County reported that the county is going to bid on the resurfacing project of old Highway 97. The county has also received some funding for the Twin Lakes area from the last round of stimulus money.
- John Sackman with the City of Omak stated the City has finished with the Robinson Canyon Road, and everything seems to be working with no complaints.
- Chris Branch stated that the City of Oroville is constructing new sidewalks from one end of the city to the other, and should be completed in May. This project was from the ARRA funds, and there was also some additional funding included to improve the entrance to the state park.

- Leanne Leifer with the Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition reported that they have applied for a \$1.9 million capital construction grant to buy property and construct a bus farm and a new facility.
- Dave Acheson with the Town of Winthrop reported that Winthrop has selected a firm to construct the pedestrian/bicycle bridge as part of the Susie Stephens trail. They should be breaking ground within the next couple of months, and the bridge should be completed by the end of the year. He also thanked WSDOT for installing additional gates on the North Cascades Highway so the whole road doesn't have to be closed when there are mudslides, etc. People will still be able to get to some portions of the roadway.
- Andy Lampe also stated there is a group in the Methow wanting to create a trail from Liberty Bell High School, up the highlands and hookup with the trail system in the Winthrop area to get the bicycles and pedestrians off of the highway. The idea is still in the conceptual stage.

4(g) Douglas County Area Updates

- Ken Stanton reported that Douglas County has finally reached an agreement with the developer on the Eastmont Extension property. Work should start soon and will continue through 2013.
- Russell Clark with the City of Rock Island stated that they will be resurfacing most of the roads in the city because of the installation of the new sewer pipes. He is hopeful that the wastewater treatment plant will be in place by 2012.

4(h) Chelan County Area Updates

Susan Driver stated that the City of Entiat is working with Fish and Wildlife on a trail alignment to go under the Entiat River Bridge. There is a plan to have an Entiaqua Trail and Outdoor Learning Center on the Entiat River and have it connect to a new trail and park that the PUD is putting in on the other side. They are looking at eventually having a loop trail through the city and across the highway.

4(i) WSDOT Updates

Dan Sarles with WSDOT reported that they are working on illumination projects on Hwy 150 and Hwy 971, constructing a passing lane south of Chelan Falls and one on the south side of Blewett Pass, and various chip seal projects. Bids will be going out for the 3rd Street to Rock Island paving project. The contractor is ready to move from the north side of Sellar Bridge to the south side, but will wait until after Apple Blossom, because all pedestrian access will be closed on the south end. Hwy 97A will be closed for another full week sometime in May.

5. New Business

Dave Honsinger handed out the information for the upcoming Washington State Community Airport Association 2010 Spring Conference on April 22 and 23 being held at the Wenatchee Red Lion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. on a motion by Russell Clark.

APPROVED ON June 9th, 2010.

ATTEST:

Mike Mackey
Chairman

Jeff Wilkens
Executive Director