

North Central Regional Transportation Planning Organization

City Hall

135 East Johnson, Chelan

Wednesday, February 10th, 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
Richard DeRock, Link Transit	Russell Clark, City of Rock Island
Paul Mahre, 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	
Leanne Leifer, Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition	

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

GUESTS:

Jim Reinbold, City of Chelan	Bruce Nurse, Kemper Development Co.
Jim Horn, Former WA State Senator	Thom Kutrich, Forsgren Associates
Dave Honsinger, WSDOT	Mark Botello, City of Cashmere
Samantha Bartling, NCW RC&D	Les Bowen, Lake Chelan Mirror

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 December 9, 2009 minutes were approved on a motion by Russell Clark.

3. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Elmira Forner congratulated Richard DeRock with Link Transit on his national recognition for the first electric bus system in the nation.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS AND REPORTS

4(a) Director's Report

Jeff Wilkens reported on the following topics:

- Gave a brief explanation of the federal "Jobs Bill" and what it might mean for Chelan and Douglas counties and passed around the screened projects from the Technical Advisory Committee that will be prioritized by the WVTC board. WVTC has been asked to submit \$3 million of prioritized projects by March 1, 2010.
- WVTC is in the process of hiring a planner to work on the Human Services and Non-Motorized plans, and to be a general resource to the Regional Transportation Planning Organization membership.
- Noted that the legislature seems to be hinting at a transportation revenue package for next year. They are looking at the gas tax, weight fees and vehicle miles traveled.
- The WSDOT North Central Region submitted four projects to be considered for the Federal Appropriations Request. A letter of support for the four projects was authorized on a motion by Ken Stanton.

4(b) WSDOT NC Region "Top 10" non-motorized projects

Jeff sent the North Central Region a long list of non-motorized funding needs. The Region will highlight ten from the list and submit to WSDOT headquarters for a statewide list of priorities. They will be compiling a list of projects on the state highway system that are within cities, and a second list of projects on the state highway system in rural areas.

4(c) Okanogan County Area Updates

Dave Acheson from Winthrop stated that the city is building a pedestrian bridge that will connect downtown to the ice rink. The project should be completed by the end of 2010.

Elmira Forner reported that the Transportation Commission will be meeting in Omak on September 21st. She would like to have a tour setup for them to look at the Central Avenue Bridge. Elmira stated that she would be willing to help the city with the details.

Leanne Leifer stated that the state is making more cuts to the senior services programs, so her organization may lose more funding.

Chris Branch reported on the sidewalk project in the City of Oroville. He also stated that the pedestrian trailhead in Oroville, as part of the Similkameen Trail, has received the funding. This will be an ongoing project for several years.

4(d) Douglas County Area Updates

Ken Stanton reported that the bridge at the Chief Joe Dam has recently been damaged and the structure has been declared unsafe. The vehicle weight on the bridge has been reduced to sixteen tons or less. The Corp of Engineers has declared an emergency for a temporary detour to keep the heavier vehicles off of the structure until it can be repaired.

4(e) Chelan County Area Updates

Jim Bailey reported that the City of Wenatchee is ready to construct a turn lane at North Wenatchee Avenue and Horse Lake Road, and also at Chelan Street southbound and Orondo Street. The city is working on curbs, gutters and sidewalks on Marr Street at the sound end of Wenatchee.

Richard DeRock with Link Transit reported that nine diesel trolleys will be replaced with new electric trolleys. This will be the first time tried in the United States. The buses and charging stations should be operational by September. The technology is the most effective for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and should work in any urban area, but not for long distances. Richard also stated that he has submitted the grant for the Park and Ride and parking garage facility at the East Wenatchee Mall. This project is a joint development with the mall. Link is applying for \$5 million for the parking garage and the transfer station, and the mall is putting in \$12 million. This facility will also have a charging station for the electric trolleys.

4(f) WSDOT Updates

Paul Mahre reported that WSDOT has three projects that will begin on February 27th, 2010. They have opened bids on The Sellar Bridge East project, and the bids have come in 20% less than expected.

4(g) I-90 Lake Washington Bridge/Light Rail

Former Senator Jim Horn gave a presentation on the Puget Sound Light Rail project and how it could affect freight movement across the I-90 Lake Washington Bridge. A copy of the presentation is in the file. This will be a discussion item at the next meeting.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. on a motion by George Buckner.

APPROVED ON April 14th, 2010.

ATTEST:

Mike Mackey
Chairman

Jeff Wilkens
Executive Director