

**Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Cowlitz Administration Building, General Meeting Room**  
**Thursday, July 28, 2016 ~ 12:13 p.m.**

Minutes

**General/Special Representatives/Alternates:**

Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County  
Mike Backman, Wahkiakum County  
Scott Vydra, City of Longview  
Rick Roberson, City of Kelso  
David Vorse, City of Castle Rock  
Bill Hallanger, Cowlitz 2 Fire/Rescue

Dan Ulrich, Cowlitz County Fire District No. 5  
Dell Hillger, Beacon Hill Water & Sewer District  
Dan Zorn, Longview School District  
Scott Westlund, Kelso School District  
Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama (via phone)

**Associate/Affiliate Representatives/Alternates:**

Wendy Hall, Lower Columbia College  
Ilona Kerby, Lower Columbia CAP

Scott Walstra, Cowlitz EDC  
Paige Lake, Wahkiakum Chamber

**Guests:** Claude Sakr, Cowlitz County; Susan Eugenis, Cowlitz County; Roger Maurer, Cowlitz County; Dena Horton, Senator Cantwell's Office; Jeff Cameron, City of Longview; Michael O'Neill, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services; Joanna Lowrey, WSDOT; David Hodges, Senator Murray's Office.

**Staff:** Bill Fashing; Judith Donovan; Anisa Kisamore; Sam Rubin; Deborah Johnson; Melissa Taylor; Stephanie Helem.

**1. Call to Order & Introduction.**

Chairperson Dennis Weber called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. Absence of a quorum was noted, and the meeting proceeded, anticipating the arrival of additional members. Introductions were made.

**2. Public Comment.**

No public comments.

**3. Information Items.**

A. Presentation by Michael O'Neill, Cowlitz County Health and Human Services. Cowlitz County Office of Healthy Communities' Role in Transportation Planning. The Office of Healthy Communities assists in organizing and supporting collective action in the community as it relates to Cowlitz County's shared health priorities. Their office has been involved in the following activities associated with transportation planning:

- Supporting Walkable Cowlitz, a community group focused on increasing walkability and other active transportation opportunities in the community. Participation in walking audits in the highest transit use areas.
- Assisted the COG in a public participation process as part of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Assessment.

An operational overview document was distributed. Questions and discussion followed.

**4. Action Items.**

- A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Assessment Report; and
- B. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Active Transportation Long-Range Strategies. COG staff worked with the Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Technical Advisory Committees to develop different components of the assessment and identify an active bicycle and pedestrian transportation network. Active long-range transportation strategies are necessary to advance the Regional Transportation Plan's goals and policies. Most of the components within the assessment will be included in the Regional Transportation Plan. COG staff

encouraged incorporation of the components into the agency's comprehensive plans, park plans, and strategic plans. Discussion followed.

**A quorum was present. Introductions were made of additional members.**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Scott Vydra, and seconded by Rick Roberson, to accept the Bicycle and Pedestrian Assessment. Discussion followed. Motion should include 'Rails to Trails' map in final report. Voting all in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Scott Vydra, and seconded by Dan Ulrich, to accept the Regional Transportation Plan – Active Transportation Long-Range Strategies as presented. No discussion. Voting all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Consent Agenda.**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Scott Vydra, and seconded by Bill Hallanger, to approve the consent agenda as presented. This included: (A) June 23, 2016 meeting minutes; (B) June 2016 expenditures in the amount of \$77,340.33. No discussion. Voting all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Action Items (continued).**

C. Resolution 16-07: Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment. The amendment is for the inclusion of a new WA State Department of Transportation project to the RTIP. The SR432/Tennant Way RR Xing project is to construct pullout lanes for buses and trucks to reduce the risk of rear end collisions. Discussion followed.

**Due to the absence of a quorum, the board could not adopt a motion.**

D. Resolution 16-08: Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funding Allocation. This amendment is to release \$350,000 Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the City of Longview's Ocean Beach/West Main Interconnect Project and add \$350,000 to Cowlitz County's Industrial Way/Oregon Way Intersection Project (SR 432/SR 433 Grade Separated Intersection Project).

**Due to the absence of a quorum, the board could not adopt a motion.**

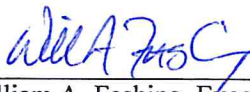
**7. Executive Director's Report.**

- A. City of Longview met July 14<sup>th</sup> and approved payment of the second half of the COG investment for 2016.
- B. Information announcements:
  - a. Al Swindell's wife, Iris, passed away last week.
  - b. This is Melissa Taylor's final board meeting. Melissa was given thanks and offered best wishes for the future. Her expertise and historical knowledge of the organization will be missed.

**8. Other Business.**

- A. Public Comment – A celebration of life for Iris Swindell will be held July 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Woodland Community Center.

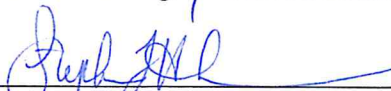
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Dennis Weber, Chairperson



Stephanie Helem, Administrative Assistant