

COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Regular Meeting
Virtual ~ Via Zoom
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ 10:00AM

MINUTES

Voting Members

Cowlitz County

Richard R. Dahl, Cowlitz County
Morgan Palmer, City of Longview
Andrew Hamilton, City of Kelso
Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso
Tracy Coleman, City of Woodland
Troy Stariha, Port of Kalama
Jennifer Wray-Keene, Port of Woodland

Grays Harbor County

Kati Kachman, City of Aberdeen
Kyle Fisher, City of Aberdeen
Pete Schave, City of Aberdeen
Kyle Pauley, City of Cosmopolis
Mike Olden, City of Montesano
Troy Meyers, City of Westport
Richard Anderson, City of Ocean Shores

Non-Voting Members

Bill Baumann, WSDOT
Ryan Clemens - WSDOT
Ken Mehin, Grays Harbor Transit
Jean Braaten, Grays Harbor Transit
Kelly Wagoner, Lower Columbia CAP
David Johnson, Pacific Transit
Maleah Kuzminsky, Twin Transit

Lewis County

Pacific County

Jerry Phillips, City of Long Beach
Julie Struck, City of South Bend
Mike Cassinelli, City of Ilwaco

Wahkiakum County

Lee Tischer, Chair, Wahkiakum County
Paul Lacy, Wahkiakum County
David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

WSDOT

Laurie Lebowsky-Young, SW Region
George Mazur, Olympic Region

Maggie McCarthy, Twin Transit
Camille Goldsmith, Wahkiakum On The Move
Tanisha Harris, Senator Cantwell's office
Jeff Wilson, Senate 19th District
Caitlan Harrington, Senator Murray's office
John Anderson, Governor Inslee's office

Guests

No guests in attendance

Staff

Bill Fashing, CWCOG
Lauren Read, CWCOG
Rachelle Nugent, CWCOG
Sean Nugent, CWCOG
Vicki Cummings, GHCOG
Mike Kroll, Lewis County Public Works

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Chair, Lee Tischer, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introductions were conducted in the room and through the chat function.

2. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

3. Action Items

There was discussion around the following items, no actions taken due to lack of a quorum.

- A. Minutes from the January 18, 2023, meeting minutes.
- B. Resolution 23-09 – RTP Project List Priorities
- C. Resolution 23-10 – Regional Transportation Plan Policies and Long-Range strategies
- D. Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects – Bill suggested a possible special meeting.
- E. Letter regarding comments on CPT-HSTP and Consolidated Grant Process

4. Information Items

A. Mobility Management Program

Lauren Read gave an update on the Mobility Management Program stating that the website had been updated with several PDF documents and she has been tracking the usage over the past few months and that it is getting lots of activity.

Lauren provided information on new projects in process; a youth activity book that targets younger kids and teaches them how to ride the transit system safely; reflective snap bands with transit logos – used to assist riders in being recognizable as flagging down a bus at flag stops; creating eight short video series filmed locally with different types of information around riding transit.

Lauren also shared that she will be attending the Southwest Washington Regional Transit Partner meeting in Lewis County and will be presenting updates on the Mobility Management Program. She also mentioned that there will be an article regarding this in the next edition of the Mobility Management Program newsletter.

B. Discussion of Scenic Byways

Bill Fashing updated on the outcomes of the Scenic Byway grant applications for SR105 and SR4. The SR105 application was approved (the only one for Washington). A question was put forth regarding what the other stakeholders are thinking about reapplying for the next round of grant opportunities this summer.

CWCOG staff have discussed submitting a new grant application to promote scenic highways and to create corridor management plans for those specific highways that do not already have them. Mayor Olson stated that he intends to reapply for the SR4 corridor management plan grant. He also stated that SR4 is also part of Cowlitz County, and he would be interested in working together.

Jerry Phillips stated that he agreed with Mayor Olson that SR 4 was a critical corridor and noted that the Astoria bridge is the only other way to I-5 without taking a long detour. Due to this, he feels it is imperative that it becomes a high priority highway.

Bill Fashing asked the group if anyone else was working on a scenic byway plan, there were no responses. Bill stated that CWCOG staff would continue to pursue this and if anyone has questions to reach out to himself or Robert Stevens.

C. Transportation Priorities Survey Results

Lauren Read presented an update regarding the transportation priorities survey results. The results were included in the board packet for the May 2023 meeting.

D. SWRTPO Funded Transportation Alternatives Project Updates

Bill Fashing reminded everyone that the Regional Transportation Planning Organization Board is responsible for the distribution of dollars called "Transportation Alternatives." The following regions gave a summary of projects that were funded by the board.

Kyle Fisher – City of Aberdeen, Paul Lacey – Wahkiakum County, Mike Olden – City of Montesano, David Olson - City of Cathlamet, Morgan Palmer – City of Longview, Bill Fashing for City of Castle Rock, Bill Fashing – CWCOG.

E. Regional Transportation Planning Organization Overview

Bill Fashing gave an update on the new member orientation. Time constraints prohibited him from providing a detailed orientation, but he referenced the WSDOT RTPO 101 informational slides in the board packet.

F. Grays Harbor Transit Letter of Support

Bill Fashing noted that letters of support are provided when requested and consistent with either the Regional Transportation Plan, or the Coordinated Public Transportation – Human Services Transportation Plan. A copy of the letter of support written for Grays Harbor Transit is in the board packet for preview.

5. Other Business

A. WSDOT

Laurie Lebowsky gave SW regional updates. George Mazur gave updates for the Olympic region.

B. Surface Transportation Block Grant

Bill Fashing gave an update and talked about the opportunity for a "fund swap," federal dollars for state dollars in a pilot program. He suggested that if your county is interested to contact your local county leadership as soon as possible as there are limited slots available for the pilot.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Lee Tischer, Chair

