



**COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO)**  
**Regular Meeting / Hybrid**

CWCOG Conference Room / Administration Annex, 207 4th Ave N, Kelso WA  
 Video Conferencing via Zoom  
 Wednesday, October 11, 2023 ~ 10:00AM

**MINUTES**

**Voting Members**

***Cowlitz County***

Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso  
 Andrew Hamilton, City of Kelso  
 Doug Averette, Port of Longview

***Grays Harbor County***

Kati Kachman, City of Aberdeen  
 Kyle Pauley, City of Cosmopolis  
 Mike Olden, City of Montesano  
 Troy Meyers, City of Westport  
 Kayla Dunlap, Port of Grays Harbor

***Lewis County***

Scott Brummer, Lewis County  
 Tony Ketchum Sr., City of Chehalis

**Non-Voting Members**

Ryan Clemens, WSDOT  
 Gerina Hatch, Community in Motion  
 Ken Mehin, Grays Harbor Transit  
 Kelly Wagoner, Lower Columbia CAP  
 Michael Wagner, Pacific Transit  
 David Johnson, Pacific Transit  
 Jim Seeks, RiverCities Transit  
 Maleah Kuzminsky, Twin Transit  
 Maggie McCarthy, Twin Transit  
 Jim Walsh, Representative 19<sup>th</sup> District  
 Camille Goldsmith, Wahkiakum on the Move  
 Karen Larsen, Representative Walsh's Office  
 Tanisha Harris, Senator Cantwell's Office  
 Brian Wood, WSDOT Headquarters

***Pacific County***

Jerry Doyle, Pacific County  
 Jerry Phillips, City of Long Beach  
 Julie Struck, City of South Bend

***Wahkiakum County***

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County  
 David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

***WSDOT***

Laurie Lebowsky-Young, SW Region

**Guests**

None

**Staff**

Bill Fashing, CWCOG  
 Robert Stevens, CWCOG  
 Lauren Read, CWCOG  
 Rachelle Nugent, CWCOG  
 Gabriel Reese, CWCOG  
 Sean Nugent, CWCOG  
 Penny Newton, 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 roll call was conducted.

## 2. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

## 3. Action Items

### A. **July 12, 2023, Minutes**

The July 12, 2023, minutes were reviewed for approval by the SWRTPO Board.

**Motion:** Mike Karnofski moved to approve the July 12, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

### B. **Resolution 23-23: 2024-202 Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Improvement Program**

Robert Stevens presented an overview of the 2024-2027 Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Improvement Program (M/RTIP) for the five county RTPO area. There are 89 projects planned totaling \$631.7 million. Action is needed to adopt the 2024-2027 M/RTIP for submission to Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Projects will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

**Motion:** Jerry Phillips moved to approve Resolution 23-23, adopting the 2024-2027 M/RTIP for the SWRTPO. Motion approved.

### C. **Castle Rock's Six Rivers Trail Phase 2 Transportation Alternatives Project Scope of Change**

Robert Stevens provided an overview of the Six Rivers Trails Phase 2 scope of work change as requested by Castle Rock. The change would reduce the project's limitations to Huntington Avenue South given the original plan's funding for improvements on Huntington Avenue North is being completed with outside, additional funding. The Huntington Avenue South plan would be expanded to include pedestrian path and pedestrian crossing improvements at Larsen Lane and nine pedestrian friendly lights. The expanded projects will not require additional funding.

**Motion:** Kyle Pauley moved to approve the City of Castle Rock's Six Rivers Trail Phase 2 Transportation Alternatives Project Scope Changes as presented. Motion approved.

### D. **2023 Transportation Alternatives Ranking Committee Members**

Robert Stevens requested approval of the ranking committee that will review and score projects.

**Motion:** Mike Karnofski moved to approve the appointment of Adam Trimble, Zana Dennis, Mike Kroll, Holly Beller, and Adam Vogt to serve on the Transportation Alternatives Ranking Committee. Motion approved.

## 4. Information Items

### A. **US 95 Bike Route System (US95BRS)**

Brian Wood from WSDOT presented information on the US95BRS which is a developing, national network of bicycle routes connecting urban and rural communities primarily to promote bicycle tourism. Bill Fashing inquired if the SWRTPO has any interest in exploring the creation of bike routes in the RTPO region. Mike Karnofski recommended the current Regional Trails Committee be used instead of creating a new committee and Troy Meyers agreed. It was suggested adding the Transportation Stakeholder Committee and local Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs) as well for input. COG staff will continue to explore options and present them as part of the Regional Trails process to promote discussion on the concept.

**B. Regional Trails Planning Update**

Bill Fashing announced that Alta Consulting was hired to assist with the 5-county Regional Trails planning process. A survey is available on the CWCOG website, Facebook, and Instagram. Bill asked each member agency to assist the steering committee in getting public input by sending flyers to constituents to ensure their population areas are informed.

**C. Mobility Management Update**

Lauren Read announced that the October edition of the Mobility Minutes newsletter is out. The RiverCities Transit videos are completed and will be added to the COG YouTube channel. Links will be posted on the Mobility Management webpage under the trip assistant site. The route inventory should be completed by the end of October, and the Regional Mobility Guide will be updated from a guide to a full mobility tool kit. A Transportation stakeholders meeting will be held October 18, 2023, and the Regional Transportation partner meeting will be held October 25, 2023.

**D. Target Zero Program Update**

Bill Fashing provided information on the Target Zero program which is a national effort to eliminate fatalities on the nation’s road system. The CWCOG added a Target Zero Manager position which was accepted by current staff member, Rachelle Nugent. Rachelle will manage the counties of Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Lewis.

**5. Other Business**

**A. Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charging**

Bill Fashing gave a brief update on the region’s electrical vehicle charging stations. A study may be developed to document the region’s current station status and the challenges of meeting the needs of electrical vehicles. Members were asked to give updates on what is happening in their areas. David Olson provided an update on the Town of Cathlamet’s new EV station, and Jim seeks reported on the RiverCities Transits Pilot Project between Longview and Lexington.

Lauren Read shared that the Department of Commerce’s statewide EV plan is out for public comment and will send a link to the board following the meeting.

**B. Safe Streets for All (SS4A)**

Bill Fashing mentioned a new federal program which will require most road departments, cities, and counties to have a street safety plan in place. This is above what WSDOT has required in the past for communities to get funding. Dollars will be available in 2024. The CWCOG is available to assist in the coordination of a regional application for funding if there is interest. The board was asked to contact Bill or Robert in the next few weeks If interested.

**6. Adjourn**

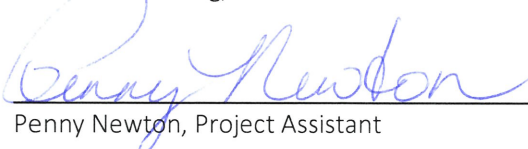
The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Lee Tischer, Chair



Penny Newton, Project Assistant

