



**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, December 6, 2023 ~ 10:00AM

MINUTES

Voting Members

Cowlitz County

Mike Karnofski, City of Kelso
Andrew Hamilton, City of Kelso
Dennis Webber, Cowlitz County
Tracy Colman, City of Woodland

Grays Harbor County

Mike Olden, City of Montesano
Troy Meyers, City of Westport

Lewis County

Tony Ketchum Sr., City of Chehalis
Mayor O’Neil, City of Napavine

Pacific County

Mike Cassinelli, City of Ilwaco
Jerry Phillips, City of Long Beach

Wahkiakum County

Lee Tischer, Wahkiakum County
David Olson, Town of Cathlamet

WSDOT

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

Non-Voting Members

Bill Baumann, WSDOT
Gerina Hatch, Community in Motion
Ken Mehin, Grays Harbor Transit
Kelly Wagoner, Lower Columbia CAP
David Johnson, Pacific Transit
Maleah Kuzminsky, Twin Transit
Maggie McCarthy, Twin Transit
Camille Goldsmith, Wahkiakum on the Move
Tanisha Harris, Senator Cantwell’s Office

Staff

Bill Fashing, CWCOG
Robert Stevens, CWCOG
Lauren Read, CWCOG
Rachelle Nugent, CWCOG
Gabriel Reese, CWCOG
Penny Newton, CWCOG
Vicki Cummings, GHCOG
Mike Kroll, Lewis County Public Works

Guests

Haley Falley, Target Zero – Region 2

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Lee Tischer called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

3. Action Items

A. October 11, 2023, Minutes

The October 11, 2023, minutes were reviewed for approval by the SWRTPO Board.

Motion: Mike Karnofski moved to approve the October 11, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

B. Resolution 23-26: 2024-207 Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Plan

Robert Stevens requested consideration of Resolution 23-25 adopting Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan Regional Transportation Plan (M/RTP) for the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO).

The plan provides a guide to future decisions over the next 27 years for the bi-state Longview Urban Metropolitan Planning Area and the five-county SWRTPO. There are 338 projects 241 being in the SWRTPO. Total costs are more than \$5 billion, \$878 million for fully funded projects and \$4.2 billion for unfunded projects.

Two changes were recommended in the first draft and will be incorporated into the final version prior to submittal to WSDOT.

Motion: David Olson moved to approve Resolution 23-26, adopting the Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan for the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization including the two recommended changes as noted. Motion was seconded and approved.

C. Resolution 23-27: Surface Transportation Block Grant Transportation Alternatives Project Selection

Robert presented a brief update on the grant and requested approval of Resolution 23-27 to select projects to receive federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Transportation Alternative funding. Seven ranked projects were presented in order of ranking with the top five recommended for funding.

To fully fund all projects requires borrowing \$262,061 from the rural category to make up the difference with an adjustment being made in the next call for projects to maintain the required balance between urban and rural areas. The total of awards given was \$1,557,571.

Motion: Jerry Phillips moved to adopt Resolution 23-27: Surface Transportation Block Grant Transportation Alternatives (TA) Project Selection as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

4. **Information Items**

A. Regional Trails Planning Update

Bill Fashing provided an update on the Regional Trails Plan. The community survey received 322 respondents and 336 email addresses for the project contact list. Projects which received top rankings were access to recreational and fitness opportunities, connectivity to destinations, and long-distance routes. Responses were received from 15 counties, 3 states, and 67 different zip codes.

The steering committee will be identifying five projects, one from each county, and taking them to a higher level of design.

Mobility Management Update

Lauren Read, Mobility Management Coordinator, gave a brief update on the Mobility Management grant announcing the completion of the series of ride videos that provide information on accessing the bus system. The links will be sent out to the Board after they are posted on the CWCOG's website and YouTube channel, and RiverCities Transit has received them.

The yearly Accomplishment Report will be included in the January edition of the Mobility newsletter.

An approximate release date for the Resource Training videos is set for the end of December 2023.

The Regional Mobility Guide will be presented for review at the Public Transportation Stakeholders Committee Meeting in early March 2024. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

B. Target Zero Program Update

Haley Falley, Target Zero Manager Region 2, provided an update on projects in Region 2. High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) patrols will be conducted through New Years in Grays Harbor, Mason, and Pacific Counties. Seven schools are participating in the Teens in the Driver's Seat program and the Child Passenger Safety Technician course has been moved to May.

Rachelle Nugent, Target Zero Manager Region 3, provided an update on projects in region 3. A meeting with Lewis and Cowlitz Counties Taskforce was held to discuss moving to a broader coalition between all three counties in the Region 3 area. Other projects currently happening are the Lewis Count Safety City; DUI HVE patrols statewide, December 13, 2023, to January 1, 2024; Lewis County Night of 1000 Stars December 16; and Teens in the Driver's Seat.

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission is finalizing the 2022 Fatal Crash Data Dashboard with a release in early 2024. The dashboard will also include the School Zone Safety Surveys that were completed.

C. RTPO Funding Request

Bill Fashing announced that the Regional Transportation Organization (RTPO) directors, as a state-wide organization, came to an agreement and will be making a significant request of \$12 million to the legislature in the short session with the anticipation of receiving an increase above the \$4.9 million budgeted since 2004. A Talking Fact Sheet is available for additional information.

5. Other Business

Bill Fashing acknowledged and thanked the Board members that have served over the past year, giving additional recognition to Jerry Phillips who is leaving the board after many years of service.

Bill Fashing expressed interest in hearing from counties with flooding problems. Information and updates can be sent to the CWCOG via email.

David Olson noted the Wahkiakum Westport Ferry is running providing an alternate way to get from the Peninsula to Longview and Kelso with the current road closures in place.

Laurie Lebowsky-Young announced the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) was awarded a design and construction grant for State Route 4 (SR4), the Cowlitz River Bridge Pedestrian Illumination Upgrade. The grant was received from the Sandy Williams - Connecting Communities Program.

Lauren Read announced the Board would be receiving a voluntary survey regarding Race, National Origin, and Ethnicity required for the Title IV Annual Report.

Next meeting is 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

6. Adjourn

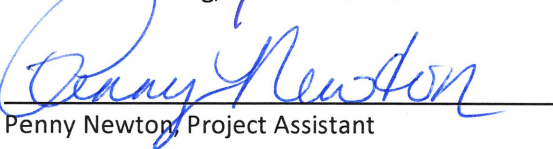
The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



William A. Fashing, Executive Director



Lee Tischer, Chair



Penny Newton, Project Assistant

