

**FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 27, 2012**  
**Olympia, WA**

Board members present: Ms. Pati Otley, Chair; Mr. Cliff Benson; Mr. Terry Finn; Mr. Larry Paulson; Mr. John Creighton; Mr. Steve Holtgeerts; Ms. Rebecca Francik; Mr. Dave Gossett; Mr. Brian Ziegler; and Mr. Dan Gatchet.

**WELCOME:** Chair Pati Otley opened the meeting with introductions.

**FMSIB BUDGET:** Director Karen Schmidt reviewed the operating budget and the capital projects budget. The Director reviewed the status of the UP account.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Dave Gossett moved and Mr. Brian Ziegler seconded the motion to adopt the November 18, 2011 minutes as corrected.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

**Legislative Meetings:** Three Board members were able to keep the appointments scheduled with legislators on January 19, 2012 even with the increment weather conditions. Mr. John Creighton met with seven legislators; Mr. Terry Finn met with five legislators; and Mr. Ziegler met with eleven legislators.

**PSRC:** Mr. Cliff Benson reported on PSRC meetings and the process of prioritizing projects that was sent back to the committee for additional work with the focus being on weighing projects. Mr. Benson informed the Board of a new website – [www.forwardwashington.net](http://www.forwardwashington.net).

Mr. Creighton reported on the status of the ARGO project stating that the MOU has been signed by the Port of Seattle, Union Pacific Railroad and the City of Seattle.

Mr. Larry Paulson discussed the federal freight plan being introduced by Senator Maria Cantwell and the meeting with the Senator at the Port of Vancouver. Director Schmidt participated in the meeting held at the Port of Seattle. Senator Cantwell also held a meeting at the Port of Pasco.

Chair Otley recapped the House Transportation Committee Freight Day on January 26, 2012 and the presentations before the committee.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Schmidt updated the Board on the legislative schedule and the appropriateness and timeliness of the FMSIB legislative meetings. The Director informed the Board of

the activities on the federal freight program referencing a paper from Larry Ehl in the Board packets. One issue in the federal freight program is the trucking issue.

The Director recapped the projects that are having groundbreakings or dedications over the next few months – Renton Strander Blvd. Project groundbreaking is January 31; Auburn M Street Project groundbreaking is February 28; and Tacoma Lincoln Avenue Project and East Marginal Way dedications should be in March or April.

**FREIGHT CORRIDOR UPDATE:** Ms. Wenjuan Zhao and Mr. George Xu of WSDOT, presented the Strategic Corridor updates. Ms. Zhao presented an overview of the strategic corridors and reviewed the changes in classifications in a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Zhao explained that the strategic corridors include T1 and T2 routes. All other road classification updates will be available in May, 2012; and the strategic corridors will be updated in February, 2012 with the approval from the FMSIB Board.

Mr. Ziegler questioned the classification for SR99 SR18-SR518 which includes the SeaTac Airport. Ms. Zhao will check the freight traffic data submitted to WSDOT.

Mr. Xu discussed the rail corridors stating that they basically had not changed. WSDOT collected the data from the railroads including the short lines. Mr. Ziegler asked if the rail information is from the county of origin. Mr. Xu explained that the information is from the county that freight is shipped out of which includes the ports.

Mr. Benson moved and Mr. Gossett seconded the motion that the Board accept the strategic corridors update. Mr. Benson amended his motion to include the language “pending information SR 99 SR18-SR518 designation review.” Mr. Gossett seconded the revised motion.

Mr. Benson restated his motion to adopt the strategic corridors pending the review of the data in question and awaiting the waterways data. Mr. Gossett seconded the revised motion.

***MOTION APPROVED***

**PROJECTION SELECTION:** Mr. Ziegler discussed two projects from the 2011 Call for Projects applications – the SeaTac project and the Yakima project. Mr. Ziegler reviewed the SeaTac and Yakima letters received by the Board. The Yakima River Road Project was contingent on receiving the T2 designation which WSDOT agreed with the new designation.

Mr. Ziegler moved and Mr. Paulson seconded the motion to approve the Yakima River Road 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project and removed the previous condition.

***MOTION APPROVED***

Mr. Ziegler recapped the Committee’s decision on the SeaTac project. Mr. Ziegler explained two issues with the SeaTac project: eligibility and freight benefit. The eligibility issue depends on the response from WSDOT. Mr. Ziegler recapped the Committee’s decision on the amount of freight benefit and the \$2.5M funding decision based on the freight benefit.

Mr. Ziegler moved and Mr. Paulson seconded that the Board approve the SeaTac application contingent on the route being designated as a T2 route.

***MOTION APPROVED***

Chair Otley commented on the importance of the FMSIB statutes specifically defining the parameters of the Board and FMSIB as an advocate for freight.

**CHAIR RECOGNITION:** In honor of the service of Chair Otley to the Freight Mobility Board since 1999, the Board members presented a gift and appreciation comments to the Chair for her dedication to freight in Washington State.

Mr. Ziegler suggested a new Board designation be created “Chair Emeritus”.

**UNDERGROUND ECONOMY:** Mr. Larry Pursley of the Washington Trucking Associations updated the Board on the activities. Mr. Pursley stated that the administrative judge has sent the issue back to the department. The legislation is up for executive session next week. Mr. Paulson indicated the Ports are watching this legislation as well.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Chair Otley introduced the Yearly FMSIB schedule which had previously been discussed at the November 2011 meeting, but the Board needed to officially approve the schedule. Chair Otley stated that the next FMSIB meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2012.

Mr. Paulson moved and Mr. Ziegler seconded the motion that the next FMSIB Board meeting be held in Tacoma, WA on March 16, 2012.

***MOTION CARRIED***

Mr. Gossett moved and Mr. Holtgeerts seconded approval of the yearly schedule with the date change for the May meeting to May 24, 2012.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**SR 167 & SR 509 STATUS:** Mr. Craig Stone, WSDOT Toll Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Board on the status of these projects. Mr. Stone stated that phasing is a valuable component. Mr. Stone explained the variable tolls which are higher during peak hours.

Mr. Stone explained the key issue is funding and the need for a funding package – significant non-tolling funding is necessary. The benefit of the 509 project is the creation of jobs, improvement of freight, and reducing congestion. Mr. Stone stated that this report is a midpoint report and the final report will be coming out this summer.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** Chair Otley welcomed Senator Curtis King.

Senator King discussed the transportation issues for the 2012 legislative session and the three small transportation agencies – FMSIB, TIB and CRAB. Senator King discussed revenue options and project funding.

Representative Mike Armstrong joined the Board meeting. Rep. Armstrong discussed revenue and funding issues for transportation as well as a proposal he had been developing for the past two years.

Chair Otley presented the gavel to the newly appointed Chair of FMSIB, Mr. Dan Gatchet.

Chair Gatchet accepted the gavel and adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**



**Dan Gatchet**  
**Chair**



**Attest: Karen Schmidt**  
**Executive Director**