

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

March 22, 2013  
Fife, WA

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Mr. Larry Paulson; Mr. Tom Trulove; Mr. Dave Gossett; Mr. Pat Hulcey; Mr. Terry Finn; Mr. John Creighton; and Mr. Brock Nelson.

**WELCOME:** Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Larry Paulson moved and Mr. Pat Hulcey seconded the motion to adopt the January 25, 2013 minutes.

***MOTION CARRIED***

**FMSIB BUDGET:** Director Karen Schmidt reviewed the operating budget and the variance report; the new assignment of an attorney from the Office of the Attorney General; the annual report costs either with continuing the Lund Contract or FMSIB staff taking on the project; the capital projects explaining the Colville project that is completed, but not closed due to the ROW property not yet being sold – the Lander project still inactive and on the deferred list – and the contributions on the Willis project being moved to 228<sup>th</sup> and the dollars in place on the 212<sup>th</sup> project. The Director reviewed the UP account and the drastic decrease in interest being earned.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Schmidt discussed the activities of the new Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) and the next meeting on May 13 in Seattle. The Director explained there are still two vacancies in the membership of the FAC – Environmental and Shippers.

The Director explained the Hogum Bay project which is moving to the 2015-17 budget cycle; the Washington, D.C. trip with congressional meetings, USDOT meeting and seminar; and the National Freight Advisory Committee application process which closed on March 21, 2013.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Mr. Terry Finn reported on the activities of the Seattle Freight Advisory Committee and the proposed NBA arena explaining that the City of Seattle has continued with their proposal and stated that the City has received a grant to develop a City freight plan.

Mr. John Creighton discussed the open commissioner position which was filled with the appointment of Courtney Gregoire. Mr. Creighton explained another commissioner has resigned recently. Mr. Creighton discussed the Maritime Conference he attended and the size increases in ships (mega ships); the trend in automating terminals; and labor shoring.

Mr. Gossett discussed the Harbor Maintenance Tax and explained he is a member of the National Association of Counties Transportation Committee. The document passed by the committee can be found on the National Association's webpage.

Mr. Paulson discussed the Harbor Maintenance Tax and how it can only be used for imports which works good for Columbia River ports. Mr. Paulson stated that the Senate Environment committee adopted a "Water Resources Development Act".

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT:** Mr. Ashley Probart reported that the two agency request bills – SB 5239 & HB 1256 – are well on their way. The House Bill is likely to be the bill to move through the process. The Transportation Budget process is based on current revenue. The FMSIB portion for operating is \$904,000 with a one-time proviso of \$75,000. The Revenue proposal process has slowed down at this point.

**CAGTC:** The FMSIB delegation met with CAGTC to discuss the benefits of FMSIB joining this national organization. Chair Gatchet stated that there is a large number of members from the West Coast area and may be beneficial for FMSIB to be a member. The Chair stated that the organization has offered a reduced membership rate for FMSIB. Mr. Paulson explained that CAGTC is a good freight advocate and suggested FMSIB join on a trial basis to see how beneficial it is for FMSIB. Mr. Finn agreed and stated that FMSIB needs a federal plan and this would be a way to be involved.

Mr. Paulson moved and Mr. Creighton seconded a motion to join CAGTC subject to a one year evaluation at renewal time.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS:** Chair Gatchet explained the three areas planned for the FMSIB members: 1) Congressional delegation meetings; 2) USDOT meeting and MAP 21 presentation; and 3) CAGTC meeting. The FMSIB Board members participating in the D.C. activities were: Chair Gatchet, Mr. Finn, Mr. Paulson, and Mr. Gossett.

**WASHINGTON RAIL PLAN:** Ms. Kerry Woehler and Mr. Ron Pate from WSDOT explained the process and timeline in preparing a state rail plan. This program is federally funded. Ms. Woehler discussed the themes of issues developed from stakeholder meetings; the state rail system to date; the strengths and challenges; the needs for inclusion in the plan; and the next steps. The draft plan is schedule to be available late summer or early fall this year for public comment. Ms. Woehler stated there are three different state transportation plans: the state freight plan, the state transportation plan, and the state rail plan.

**D Street/SR509 RAMPS:** Mr. Tom Rutherford, City of Tacoma, updated the Board on the activities on D Street. The City has submitted the IJR to WSDOT and waiting for a response. SSA and FMSIB are half the funding.

Ari Steinberg, SSA, discussed the proposed terminal and stated there is one remaining permit needed from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Puyallup Tribe and SSA own 220 acres for the terminal site, but are having difficulty finding customers, therefore, they won't pursue the terminal until they have a customer. Mr. Steinberg stated that SSA would not be supporting the SSA pledge, but they are still reaching out to customers. He said there does not appear to be a need for another terminal at this time.

Director Schmidt explained that at this point this project is not able to move forward in the next biennium. FMSIB cannot move forward now.

Mr. Rutherford stated the City will look for other funding, but will make it more difficult. The City will talk with PSRC for funding. This project was high on the TATS project list.

Director Schmidt asked SSA about the life of the permits for the terminal. Mr. Steinberg stated that they are not going to complete the environmental and won't continue with NEPA. The IJR has a 3-year shelf life and SSA can continue property improvements.

Mr. Finn suggested the City to double check with BNSF. Mr. Rutherford explained BNSF are part of the funding on the ROW.

Director Schmidt explained to the Board that not action is needed at this time. The funding can be moved into the 2015-17 biennium. The City wants the funding in the current biennium.

Mr. Rutherford explained the Puyallup River Bridge project is 98 percent complete on the design; ROW should be completed in October/November; and should have someone under contract around March 2014 and is a two-year project.

**NATIONAL ISSUE:** Mr. Larry Ehl reviewed what is happening in transportation nationally. Twenty-five states have transportation proposals; several cities in Washington State have developed transportation benefit districts; and many areas nationally and in Canada are moving forward and hopefully, Washington will do the same.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Mr. Steve Gorchester explained the focus of TIB, the funding status, and continued needs for TIB.

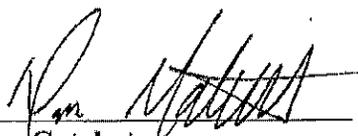
**FIFE PROJECTS:** Mr. Russ Blount, Fife Public Works Director, updated the Board on the freight projects in the City of Fife: the Port of Tacoma Road project, Phase 1, 2 and 3; SR 167; and 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

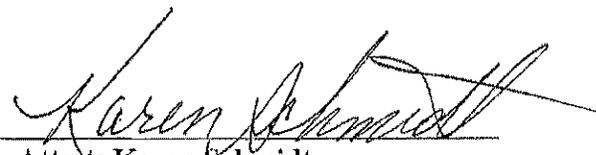
**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Mr. Tom Trulove moved and Mr. Gossett seconded the motion to hold the next FMSIB Board meeting in Spokane, WA at the Spokane International Airport on May 24, 2013.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

  
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Dan Gatchet  
Chair

  
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Attest: Karen Schmidt  
Executive Director