

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

May 29, 2015
Marysville, WA

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Mr. John Creighton; Ms. Sheri Call; Mr. Mark Knudsen; Mr. Pat Hulcey; Mr. Brian Ziegler; Mr. Mike Karnofski; Mr. Tom Trulove; and Mr. Geir-Eilif Kalhagen; and Mr. Erik Hansen.

WELCOME: Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting with introductions.

MINUTES: Chair Gatchet made a motion to adopt the March 20, 2015, minutes as presented. Mr. Johan Hellman proposed an amendment to delete “for safety purposes” on page 3. Mr. Hellman moved and Mr. Erik Hansen seconded the motion to approve the March 20, 2015 minutes as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Congressional Meetings: At the March Board meeting, the Board chose to skip this year’s annual trip to Washington DC. Instead, the Board requested Director Ashley Probart to meet with Congressional staff in their district offices. Director Probart was successful in meeting with all of Washington’s delegation. The content of the meetings was an overview of FMSIB, findings from the Washington State Freight Advisory Committee, and a focus on building relationships with district staff. Chair Gatchet asked about the difference of impact with Washington, D.C. meetings and local meetings with congressional delegation. Director Probart suggested the Board may want to have D.C. meetings every other year, but stated that timing is the key. Mr. Pat Hulcey attended the Tacoma area congressional meeting and stated that working with the local office has been very productive.

Projects-Highlights: Director Probart discussed the results of GIS mapping showing completed and active GIS mapping of our projects from the January Board meeting discussions. (maps included in meeting books)

Legislative: The Director discussed two studies that are coming out of the Legislature. First, the Marine Cargo Forecast Study which FMSIB will conduct in partnership with Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA). Mr. James Thompson of the WPPA discussed the study which is a technical study by budget proviso. The WPPA is a funding partner for the study with FMSIB. The second is a study of at-grade crossings and will be conducted through the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Mr. Mark Knudsen asked what will this study provide that hasn’t already been done. Director Probart responded that this study takes it to the next step with the hope to start prioritizing at grade crossings by corridor. Mr. Hansen explained how the process for the at-grade study will work. The Director questioned the timing of the report due in December 2015. Mr. Hansen stated that the report is due to JTC by December 15, 2015, but the JTC report is due December 2016 per House Bill 1299.

Quarterly Reporting: The Director explained project quarterly reporting will be shifting to an electronic-based system. This system will allow the projects to report directly using our webpage. They will have a password which will allow them to access their report online. FMSIB will get notification when the reports have been modified.

Office Relocation:

The Director updated the Board on the activities of relocation of the FMSIB office from the Capitol Park Building to the TIB offices. The move will take place on June 2nd. The Office of Financial Management has designated emergency money totaling \$10,000 for the expense of the relocation. The total may be close to \$12,000 total.

FMSIB BUDGET

Operating Budget:

2013-2015: The operating budget is on target for the current biennium. We will have spent \$878,000 of the \$902,000 operating budget by the end of the biennium. Mr. Knudsen stated that having a little excess at the end of the biennium shows we are diligent in our spending.

Capital Budget:

The capital budget should be within \$150,000 of projections. The \$150,000 will be requested in the 2016 supplemental. The Director has asked the projects to provide the burn rate on their projects.

CAGTC Membership:

The Director discussed the membership dues for the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors in the amount of \$3,500 with a reduced rate to \$3,250. Director Probart explained that the Board has received good information on congressional activities from CAGTC. Mr. John Creighton explained the benefits from a port perspective. Mr. Knudsen moved and Mr. Creighton seconded the motion to pay CAGTC membership dues at a cost of \$3,250.

MOTION CARRIED

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Hansen reported on the progress of the legislative activities on the budget. The Legislature passed a current level budget with no new revenue. The Legislature has already passed legislation on trailers/motorhome licenses – they only license once at time of purchase. They funded state patrol and ferry staff, but all other state employees will get notification that July 1 you may get a layoff notices. The Board asked if we are going to see new revenue. Mr. Hansen stated that the Governor is optimistic we can get a new revenue package.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Knudsen updated the Board on the status of the ports and longshoremen agreement (handout in meeting books) and the process.

Mr. Creighton discussed the Seaport Alliance between ports of Tacoma and Seattle. He explained that Tacoma, because of the nature of the structure of the port, is putting 95% of its operation into the Alliance. Because Seattle has the airport and cruise terminal that will be outside the Alliance, the vote on the Alliance will be on June 5.

Ms. Call discussed the changes in truck technology and WTA issues. Ms. Call stated that the focus has been on environmental aspects of technology – self-driving trucks and 2 truck connecting on the road to reduce fuel consumption. Ms. Call sees this technique being used in less busy roads “open roads”. She stated that these are exciting times in the truck industry.

Mr. Karnofski updated the Board on projects within Cowlitz County: coal & oil projects, methonal project, the SR432 & SR433 project, and the CERB money for planning (Mr. Karnofski serves on CERB).

Mr. Geir-Eilif Kalhagen announced that the Port of Longview is working toward a “low carbon fuel” refinery in the next 2-4.5 years.

Mr. Brian Ziegler discussed the Chambers Bay US Open Golf Tournament schedule for June 2015. He gave a PowerPoint presentation discussing the economic development impact, the treatment plan at Chambers Creek, the history of the land and the decision by Pierce County to develop a golf course at the Chambers Bay site.

PROJECT UPDATE

Director Probart opened project discussion with the #24 Colville project for an alternate truck route. The City of Colville sent a letter dated 4/15/15 to FMSIB on basing the FMSIB obligation on an alternative valuation method. The parcel of property in question was not needed for the right-of-way for the project. The parcel has been for sale for several years. The City notified FMSIB that the parcel was appraised at \$195,000 in 2012. The Director instructed the Board that they needed to have a discussion of the next steps. Mr. Hansen asked what the original value was and was it close to the \$66,300 (34%) the City of Colville is proposing.

Mr. Knudsen moved that the Board have validation of the appraisal and if validated, proceed with reimbursement from the City of Colville. Mr. Ziegler amended the motion to say that they certify the appraisal which means they would do an appraisal review of the 2012 appraisal. Mr. Trulove seconded the motion as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

The Director stated that the funds from the Colville project would go back into the mix to use on another project.

Director Probart continued with the project updates:

- The Kent projects of 228th and 212th projects may need Board decisions in November if there isn't any progress. Chair Gatchet asked if this discussion/decision could be addressed at the July meeting.
- On the Duwamish Truck Mobility Project #51, the Director explained that this project had been awarded over a decade ago. The FMSIB funding is for spot improvements and the City of Seattle has matched some of the funding. In 2013, FMSIB now has its own capital budget and is no longer a subset of WSDOT's budget. As a result, the 2013 published state budget did not show this project and the City of Seattle thought their project had been eliminated. This was resolved, but the City of Seattle was unprepared in their 2014 and 2015 budget to provide a list of candidate projects. The City of Seattle is now preparing for a November 2015 bond measure that will include a list of freight projects. Director Probart stated that the bond measure will be very difficult to pass. Also, given the scale of proposed funding of \$2.3M, the City should be able to develop a list of candidate projects as part of the City's base budget, or alternate projects if the bond measure is successful. The Director suggested he could write a letter asking for a list if the project goes forward or a list if it doesn't. Chair Gatchet stated that the Director can write a letter to a project without a Board motion, then report back to the Board on the response.
- The FMSIB Director and TIB Director met with the City of Fife regarding the Port of Tacoma Road #76. The City of Fife has divided the project into three phases. The three phases were designed to help secure funding and for project implementation. When meeting with the City of Fife, TIB made the point that combining Phase I and II would result in more immediate project and customer utility. It could also save on mobilization costs. FMSIB agrees. However, FMSIB would have to expedite \$2.3M of FMSIB's commitment that is budget for Phase II. Currently, those funds are already programmed, but there tends to be enough movement in the overall FMSIB budget where this could be feasible. By the July Board meeting, we should know if we have a new revenue package. This would resolve the cash flow concern.
- The Puyallup River Bridge is waiting for a ROW agreement from the Tribes. The Board may want to consider sending a letter to the City. Mr. Ziegler clarified that this project is fully funded and it is more of a nation-to-nation issue and the City cannot act at this point.
- The Strander Boulevard Connection Project by the City of Tukwila has a scope change from 4 lane road to a 2 lane road. Chair Gatchet asked when there is a scope change, how does the Board handle that issue. The Director stated that he would collect the data on the scope change and bring it back to the Board for their consideration.
- Barker Road in Spokane Valley will be addressed at the Board meeting in July.
- SR 529 – The Director discussed the House and Senate proposals.

The Director will complete Project updates at the July Board meeting.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Marysville SR 529:

Mr. John Cowling from the City of Marysville discussed the progress on the project and gave a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Cowling stated that the cities of Everett and Marysville recognize the importance of the project. The IJR will be signed next week. They currently have a grade separation study. 116th was in the Senate funding package and was added to the House. For 156th, they are seeking funds for the IJR.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair Gatchet entered a motion to have the next board meeting on July 24, 2015 with a workshop on July 23, 2015 in Suquamish, WA. Mr. Kalhagen moved and Mr. Ziegler seconded the motion to meet in Suquamish, WA on June 23-24, 2015.

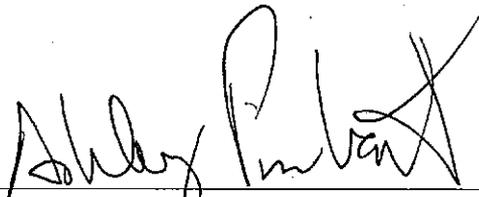
MOTION CARRIED

Chair Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Dan Gatchet
Chair



Attest: Ashley Probart
Executive Director