

**FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 15, 2016**  
**Olympia, WA**

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Mr. John Creighton; Mr. Johan Hellman; Mr. Brian Ziegler; Ms. Sheri Call, Mr. Erik Hansen; Mr. Mike Eliason; Mr. Michael Karnofski; Mr. Pat Hulcey; and Mr. Tom Trulove.

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

**MINUTES:** Mr. Karnofski moved to adopt the November 20, 2015 minutes and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**SECRETARY PETERSON:** Secretary Peterson provided an overview of freight related WSDOT actions. She began with WSDOT's response and solution to the Skagit River Bridge issue and how proud she was of the Department's performance in emergency situations. An outcome of the Skagit River Bridge was to have WSDOT provide GIS road mapping being made available on bridge heights, restrictions, etc., with the objective of reducing bridge hits. Disappointingly, the additional information has not resulted in a statistical reduction in bridge hits yet. Thanks to the Connecting Washington package and internal WSDOT work, the Department is doing a better job of providing freight alerts when highways are closed or will need to be closed.

Secretary Peterson discussed the work that Ron Pate's WSDOT's Rail office is doing. They are working with the Class I rail lines on ensuring predictability of the rail corridor--this is more important than real time performance.

Secretary Peterson also discussed the importance of WSDOT supporting transit service. If there wasn't any transit service from Everett to Seattle, there would be the need to provide vehicle capacity for two and a half more lanes in each direction on the state system.

Secretary Peterson responded to questions about the Practical Solutions program. The Executive Order is available on the WSDOT webpage. She explained the rule of thumb has been to overbuild by 20%, but now they have more information: a road safety manual; cost drivers; and not just designing for freight, but designing for all modes. Practical solutions implement least cost planning and practical design principles on a project. The focus is what are we trying to solve at least cost with practical design. We are getting away from standardizing projects.

**FAST ACT:** Barb Ivanov, Director of the WSDOT Freight Office, and Ashley Probart, Director of FMSIB, discussed the status of the FAST Act and the National Freight Plan which passed in December 2015 retroactive to October 2015.

Two maps with the National Highway Freight Network for Washington State and the Central Puget Sound region were distributed. Ms. Ivanov and Director Probart reviewed the Fast Act analysis handout.

Ms. Ivanov discussed Section 1105 outlining the new federal competitive grant program explaining that \$800M is available for fiscal year 2016 with \$80M allocated for small projects and \$200M for intermodal. There is no rulemaking and no new office established.

The FAST Act will last for five years and keeps the Tiger Grant process. Project dollars will be awarded in September 2016. Because of the timing of the Act, a simplified application for the first year's funding is being established. The federal formula funds are not much different from the other formula funds that have come to our state for the past twenty years. However, there are new federal freight formula dollars. If a state does not have an established state freight plan, they do not have access to these federal formula dollars.

Director Probart discussed Barb Ivanov's departure from WSDOT. Chair Gatchet thanked Ms. Ivanov for her dedicated work for freight. Ms. Ivanov indicated she will continue working with the freight community in her new role.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Mr. Brian Ziegler discussed the 2016 Call for Projects and the timeline: February 3 announcement; March 14 application deadline; committee project evaluations in April; project interviews in May; and adoption at the May 20 Board meeting. Director Probart stated that the Call for Projects announcement was included in the 2015 Annual Report.

Mr. Tom Trulove gave an overview of the 2016 *Day on the Hill*. Board member meetings went well. Twenty-five meetings were scheduled; seven Board members participated in 24 legislative appointments with one being cancelled due to scheduling changes.

Mr. Michael Karnofski discussed the SR 432 industrial corridor project update with a handout including the project schedule.

**SR167 AND SR509/I-5 GATEWAY PROJECT:** Craig Stone, WSDOT, briefed the Board on the history and current status of these two projects. These are mega projects needed to move the incredible amount of traffic in the Puget Sound area. Both projects will be done equally in the same timeframe. Scheduling these projects is on a 16-year timeline. Decisions that need to be made include what segments should be done when; which construction method to use (such as design build); grants to fill project funding gaps; and legislation needed to address tolling authority. Currently, exploratory work is being conducted with the national freight competitive grant program. WSDOT is not ready to apply in the first go around and are looking at how local governments/ports can be the lead on these projects. Craig hopes to have a plan by the fall of 2016. Immediate objectives are to establish an executive and

steering committee. Both executive committees will look at what is best regionally. Currently there is no timeline on expectations of deliverables.

**CITY OF LACEY PRESENTATION:** Mr. Martin Hoppe provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Hogum Bay Road project. Mr. Hoppe stated they are ready to go on Phase I of the project. The plan is to go to construction this spring with completion in winter 2017. Mr. Hoppe explained the commercial development in the NE Lacey area; the current proposal and project status; the construction funding; and the Exit 111 interchange.

**FREIGHT STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES:**

Mr. Johan Hellman, on behalf of Bill Stauffacher, briefed the Board on the rail issues. HB 1449, concerning oil transportation safety, passed the Legislature last year and is going through the rule making process at the Utilities and Transportation Commission. BNSF's hope is that they can work on policy and partnerships. Mr. Mike Eliason of Union Pacific stated that the focus is on a thoughtful implementation of HB 1449. Mr. Hellman stated that they have seen a reduction in many commodities. BNSF also has spent several billion dollars on infrastructure over the last few years to upgrade its system.

Mr. James Thompson, Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA), discussed the status of the model toxic cleanup account and the impact with the drop in petroleum prices which has created a shortfall in the account. The 2015 revenue for MTCA was down by 15%; therefore, the Ports are looking at suspending many of these projects. Mr. Thompson discussed the issues around dredging and the assignment of liability. Legislation has been introduced that asserts the importance of dredging and addresses the liability assignment. Mr. Thompson discussed the issue of aligning federal freight funding with FMSIB and indicated that the Port trustees give strong backing to this concept. The ports are working with freight partners on this issue and have talked with WSDOT as well. Mr. Ron Pate of WSDOT stated that WSDOT wants to be part of the conversation.

Mr. Larry Pursley, Washington Trucking Associations (WTA), indicated there are no big issues this session. Mr. Pursley has had conversations with Eric Johnson and James Thompson from the Ports Association on the role of FMSIB. Now that federal and state freight funding is available, it is more important than ever for freight interests to work in conjunction with each other.

Chair Gatchet indicated the July workshop will include discussions on the future roll of FMSIB, including staffing.

**LEGISLATIVE PANEL:** Senator Curtis King, Representative Judy Clibborn, Representative Ed Orcutt, and Senator Steve Hobbs discussed the issues of the 2016 legislative session.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Chair Gatchet entered a motion to have the next Board meeting on March 18, 2016, in Fife, WA. Mr. Trulove moved and Mr. Hulcey seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Gatchet discussed issues for the July workshop - many aspects of FMSIB plus the prospect of a Washington, D.C. trip and scheduling when other Board members may already be in D.C.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Probart reviewed project meetings with City of Tacoma on two projects - the Port of Tacoma Road and the Taylor Way projects; the City of Kent on 228<sup>th</sup> grade separation project; the Port of Seattle on the ARGO project; and the City of Seattle on the Lander project. There are three FMSIB projects ready to go to bid this spring: City of SeaTac - 28<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue; City of Des Moines - South 216<sup>th</sup> Street; and City of Seattle - Duwamish Truck Mobility Improvements projects.

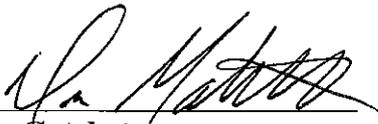
**FMSIB BUDGET :**

*Capital Budget:* Director Probart reviewed the projects authorized for expenditures; and a mid-February meeting with Spokane Valley on the Sullivan Bridge and the Barker Road projects.

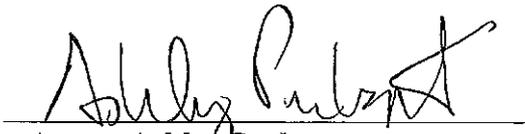
*Operating Budget:* Expenditures are on track for the first six months of the biennium. The Director met with our newly assigned Assistant Attorney General, Kathryn McLeod. The Attorney General's office has redone their formula for agency charges.

Chair Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

***MEETING ADJOURNED***



**Dan Gatchet**  
Chair



**Attest: Ashley Probart**  
Executive Director