

## FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2012

Bellingham, WA

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair, Mr. Brian Ziegler, Mr. Mark Knudsen, Mr. Dave Gossett, Mr. Steve Holtgeerts, Mr. John Creighton, Mr. Larry Paulson, Mr. Jim Albert, and Mr. Terry Finn.

Welcome: Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting.

Minutes: Mr. Dave Gossett moved and Mr. Terry Finn seconded the motion to adopt the July 20, 2012 minutes.

#### ***MOTION CARRIED***

**FMSIB Budget:** Director Karen Schmidt reviewed the operating budget and reported that we are \$15,000 under our budget amount. Printing costs and the Annual Report are budgeted over 24 months. FMSIB used the Attorney General's Office a lot more because of MOU issues and request legislation. The Director reviewed the Capital Budget and explained the projects that are completed but not officially closed until the finances are reconciled; and the status of UP account.

**Director's Report:** Director Schmidt discussed the Port of Bremerton's request to meet on an infrastructure project they are developing to see if it would qualify for FMSIB funding. The Director discussed the status of the tolling study for SR 167 and reported that the Strander Boulevard project is advancing ahead of schedule; and that a copy of the operating budget was submitted. The Director reported on the September meeting arrangements. She reported that final documents were presented to the Office of Personnel within OFM to request that our new position be exempt; and reported on MAP-21 and that she participated in the USDOT Webinar describing the federal authorization for transportation. Mr. Terry Finn delivered the presentation describing FMSIB and the freight elements in MAP-21 at the WPPA Conference; the Governor convened a MAP-21 committee to discuss how the small amount of federal discretionary funds would be used. The Director discussed the dedication of the Havana Street project and reported that what had been a 17 hour per day delay at the at-grade crossing has been removed; the Wisconsin DOT office is referring to our model on how to manage a freight program; the Port of Seattle Commission discussed the funding needed for the E. Marginal and Argo Access projects. The Director arranged for a meeting between UP and the city of Kent to discuss

the status of S. 228<sup>th</sup>, S. 212<sup>th</sup> and Willis Streets. The Director was invited to a meeting with Senator Cantwell and Secretary LaHood to discuss the creation of the freight office and reported at a press conference that the freight office was being modeled after FMSIB. The Director discussed CAGTC and indicated that there could be a discussion at the meeting on whether it is time for FMSIB to join.

Chair Dan Gatchet asked for acceptance of the Director's report. The Board approved.

### **Board Member Reports:**

Chair Dan Gatchet reported on the activities of PSRC.

Mr. Terry Finn reported on Seattle Freight, the Administrative Committee, and WPPA.

Mr. John Creighton discussed the East Marginal Way and Argo projects and a PowerPoint and video were used to illustrate traffic flow.

Mr. Brian Ziegler reported on the project selection process.

Mr. Larry Paulson reported on MAP-21

Mr. Jim Albert discussed the OFM agency profile. He reported that OFM requested FMSIB to shorten their mission statement and it will be included in the Governor's budget.

### **2013 BUDGET REQUEST; FEDERAL MAP 21 Committee; City FREIGHT ISSUES:**

Mr. Ashley Probart reported on the fee bill explaining that it is not codified; therefore, cannot count on the fee bill from biennium to biennium. It was recommended that FMSIB take a position. AWC's position advocates a bigger package. He commented on MAP-21 and AWC freight issues explaining that coal is the issue this year. There has been an increase in freight volume, mainly rail. He announced that there will be a Webinar mid-October on coal with the purpose of getting all the information on the table. All cities are included.

Mr. Brian Ziegler moved and Mr. Larry Paulson seconded the motion that FMSIB take a position in support of the fee bill being codified. Mr. Jim Albert abstained.

### ***MOTION CARRIED***

**WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE:** Mr. Eric Schinfeld explained that WCIT is dedicated to growing our state's economy through public policies that benefit Washington's companies and creates jobs for Washington residents. The role of WCIT is to educate Washington's elected officials about trade policy issues that impact Washington's international economic competitiveness. They also serve as a repository of data and information on international trade in Washington. He discussed why trade and freight are important. For example, one in three jobs are tied to trade and 40 percent of jobs are tied to trade. He commented on the opportunities for collaboration between WCIT and FMSIB.

## **2013 MEETINGS**

Chair Dan Gatchet discussed the 2013 FMSIB Board meeting schedule. The Board selected March 22 and the meeting will be held at the Port of Tacoma; the September 20 meeting will be held in Pasco/Walla Walla; and the November 15 meeting will be held in the Seattle area.

Mr. Dave Gossett moved and Mr. John Creighton seconded the motion to accept the 2013 meeting schedule.

### ***MOTION CARRIED***

**BELLINGHAM FREIGHT PRIORITIES:** Mr. Ted Carlson explained Bellingham demographics and labeled it the "4<sup>th</sup> Corner" of the United States. He discussed the employment center in Whatcom County pointing out the top employers. He reported on the active and funded projects in Bellingham which are on a six-year funding program. He commented that Bellingham is receiving \$6M in dedicated federal funds for the redevelopment of the waterfront. The waterfront is zoned multi-use and the focus is economic development.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AND TRADE CORRIDOR PROJECT (IMTC):**

Mr. Hugh Conway explained the four border crossings that connect Whatcom County, Washington State and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The four crossings are called the Cascade Gateway. The goals of the IMTC project are to facilitate a forum for ongoing communication between agencies that affect regional, cross-border transportation, safety, and security; coordinate planning of the Cascade Gateway as a transportation and inspection system rather than as individual border crossings; improve and distribute traffic data and information; identify and pursue improvements to infrastructure, operations, and information technology.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Mr. Dave Gossett moved and Mr. Steve Holtgeerts seconded the motion to hold the next FMSIB Board meeting on November 16, 2012 in the Seattle area.

### ***MOTION CARRIED***

Chair Dan Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

### ***MEETING ADJOURNED***



Dan Gatchet  
Chair



Attest: Karen Schmidt  
Executive Director