

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2013
Spokane, WA

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Mr. Tom Trulove; Mr. Brian Ziegler; Mr. Dave Gossett; Mr. Terry Finn; Mr. Pat Hulcey; Mr. John Creighton

WELCOME: Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting.

MINUTES: Mr. Tom Trulove moved and Mr. Dave Gossett seconded the motion to adopt the March 22, 2013 minutes.

Mr. Brian Ziegler amended the minutes to omit his name from Board members present. He also noted an error as it refers to the FMSIB portion for operating that states \$904 and should be changed to \$904,000.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Dan Gatchet explained that Director Karen Schmidt will not be doing the spring project updates at this meeting because of the extensive preparation for the Freight Advisory Committee meeting on May 13, 2013 and MAP 21 issues.

FMSIB BUDGET: Director Karen Schmidt reviewed the operating budget and the variance report. The director indicated that there is \$20,000 left until the close of the Biennium and there should be a small amount to return to the state. Deputy Director Ashley Probart was instrumental in getting a \$25,000 proviso included in the current revenue Transportation Budget to enable FMSIB to hire a consultant to staff the Freight Advisory Committee. FMSIB staff is hoping for an additional allocation after June 30. The variance report shows that FMSIB is over budget. This is due to staff and Board travel to DC; rent for May that is paid in April; Attorney General expenses higher than budgeted; the 2012 annual report expenses occur at the beginning of the fiscal year while the expense is averaged over 12 months. This overage will decline in future months. FMSIB also joined CAGTC.

The Director reviewed the capital projects explaining that the projects highlighted in yellow are complete but will not be closed until all the bills come in and are paid. FMSIB is not obligated to spend money on South Park Bridge so money will be redistributed to other projects. The interest from the Union Pacific Railroad will be spent on South 228th and South 212th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Karen Schmidt reported on an issue in Bingen, Washington. The issue is described as BNSF's interest in closing Walnut Street at-grade crossing of the BNSF Columbia River line. Representative Johnson and Senator King asked Director Schmidt to meet with some of their constituents from Bingen, SDS Lumber and the Port of Klickitat. Deputy Director Ashley Probart met with Bingen delegation on behalf of the Director. The delegation is seeking funds for a \$300,000 traffic study to determine how to manage access on the Westside of the mainline tracks.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Deputy Director Ashley Probart discussed the agency request legislation that enables FMSIB to manage funds at the program level and not at the project level. The Deputy Director reviewed the current revenue Transportation Budget. The \$904,000 remains consistent with the Governor's original budget. The \$25,000 proviso is included to assist with the completion of the FAC tasks and is tied to the Supplemental Budget which will expire on June 30, 2013. The Capital Budget includes the \$12M appropriation and \$2.3M from last year's fee bill is in addition to FMSIB's \$12M base budget. The Legislature did not codify any of the fee bill components. For the first time in FMSIB's 15-year history, the agency will have its own capital section and will no longer appear as a proviso within WSDOT's budget. With the enactment of HB 1256, ten years of FMSIB budget history will need to be separated from WSDOT's budget and entered into the LEAP system.

The Deputy Director reported on Chair Clibborn's transportation proposal as it relates to FMSIB and freight; discussed his preparation for the FAC on May 13th; and his site visits to Bingen and the Port of Vancouver.

FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Chair Dan Gatchet discussed the FAC meeting goals and reported on the May 13 meeting which was held at the PSRC.

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEW OF SPOKANE COUNTY: Mr. Al French, Spokane County Commissioner, gave an overview of Spokane County highlighting the West Plains region which includes large manufacturing, an international airport and business park, a rail network, an aerospace corridor, trucking hub and certified industrial sites. I-90 is a major commute and travel route for eastern Spokane County and is a Strategic Freight Corridor. Ninety percent of freight projects are along the I-90 corridor. He emphasized the bottleneck at Milepost 272 and indicated that Spokane County would request assistance from FMSIB during the next call for projects.

INLAND PACIFIC HUB AND BUSINESS CLIMATE: Mr. Rich Hadley, President, Greater Spokane Inc., discussed the results of the Inland Pacific Hub study which examined the feasibility of establishing the Inland Pacific region as a multi-modal global gateway to increase domestic and international commerce. Phase I included an outreach effort aimed at getting regional businesses to provide information about freight activity levels. Phase II involved developing a list of potential transportation investments designed to support the economic opportunities identified in Phase I

He discussed the importance of the North Spokane Corridor linking I-90 on the south end, to US 2 and US 395 on the north end. He expressed his concerns about a segment of SR 904, a two lane undivided highway located in the county. It is the primary route between Spokane and Eastern Washington University.

SPOKANE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL: Mr. Kevin Wallace, Executive Director, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, emphasized the importance of maintenance and preservation of the county. Since 2010, the population has increased by 35 percent and employment by 68,030. Since 2010, there has been a 34 percent increase in daily vehicle miles traveled and 43 percent increase in daily vehicle hours of travel. The key freight considerations are identifying economic vitality – clear bottlenecks to support existing and future employment areas; maintain existing infrastructure.