



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

January 18, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. Meeting

Ben Franklin Transit Board Room

1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Board President Skip Novakovich.
2. Roll Call – Stephanie Seamans completed roll call, by jurisdiction.

BFCG Regular Board Members

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Ben Franklin Transit	Bob Koch (Absent)	Shon Small/Jim Beaver
Benton City	Linda Lehman (Present)	NONE
Benton County	Jim Beaver (Present)	Shon Small
Benton PUD	Lori Sanders (Absent)	Barry Bush
Connell	Lee Barrow (Excused)	NONE
Franklin County	Brad Peck (Excused)	Rick Miller/Bob Koch
Kahlotus	Chad Davis (Excused)	John Rogers
Kennewick	Vacant	Steve Young
Mesa	Patti Bailey (Excused)	NONE
Pasco	Blanche Barajas (Excused)	Ruben Alvarado (Present)
Port of Benton	Bob Larson (Present)	Roy Keck
Port of Kennewick	Skip Novakovich (Present)	Don Barnes
Port of Pasco	Vicky Gordon (Absent)	Jean Ryckman/Jim Klindworth
Prosser	Mary Ruth Edwards (Absent)	Steve Becken, Randy Taylor
Richland	Brad Anderson (Absent)	Phil Lemley (Present)
West Richland	Ken Stoker (Present)	Gail Brown
WSDOT	Todd Trepanier (Present)	Troy Suing

Economic Development District (EDD) Private Sector Members

<i>Representing</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Visit Tri-Cities	Michael Novakovich(Excused)	Kim Shugart
TRIDEC	Carl Adrian (Excused)	David Chavey-Reynaud
Prosser EDA	Deb Heinz (Excused)	NONE
WorkSource Tri-Cities	Tiffany Scott (Excused)	NONE
Baker Giles	Carol Woo (Excused)	NONE
A.S. Klein Engineering	Andrew Klein (Excused)	NONE
Elite Construction & Dev.	Trini Garibay (Excused)	NONE
Community First Bank	Thomas Fisher (Excused)	NONE
Community First Bank	Amanda Jones (Excused)	NONE

BFCG Staff

Stephanie Seamans, Interim Executive Director
Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Programs Manager
Tanna Dole, Transportation Programs Manager (outgoing)
Erin Braich, Transportation Planning Specialist II
Tony Kalmbach, Transportation Planning Specialist II
Geoff Wagner, Transportation Planning Specialist II

Ms. Seamans indicated a quorum present for BFCG. There was no BFEDD business for this meeting.

3. Introduction of Visitors – Brian Malley, 2307 Franz Court Richland; Steve Worley, Pasco Public Works Director

4. Public Comment

Brian Malley, 2307 Franz Court Richland WA

Brian wanted to express his appreciation for the opportunity provided to him at the Benton-Franklin COG. He enjoyed his time in tenure with BFCG the last five and a half years as Executive Director. After additional comments, he thanked the group.

5. Reports and Comments

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Stephanie reported there is one added agenda item. Prosser Hospital is seeking USDA loan funds which will be discussed later on the agenda. The agency is working on a lot of internal HR issues with people either retiring or leaving the agency and some new employees coming on. New employees will be introduced a bit later. BFCG is excited for the year ahead and has a good team to move forward.

Tanna introduced the new transportation staff. Len Pavelka is now retired and there are new staff members recently brought on board. Jacob Gonzalez moved to the City of Pasco and Emily Weimer is now at the City of West Richland. After all of the staff changes the agency is still one short of a full transportation staff. Patrick Pittenger is the new manager and he will hire the one transportation staff position once some of the pressing issues are undertaken. Tony Kalmbach is now working for BFCG and brings knowledge in statistics and analysis. Erin Braich has also been hired and just completed his Master's Degree in Hawaii and has lots of great experience and came on December 27th. Both Erin and Tony were both raised in the area and know the network. Tony is well versed in the transit component of regional transportation. Patrick Pittenger recently came from Merced California and has over twenty experience working in MPOs and transit and is originally from Wisconsin where he started his career with an MPO in Wisconsin. Most of his career was with the Carson City MPO in Nevada. Patrick stated he's happy to be onboard and is learning from Tanna various agency issues and concerns.

Agenda Revisions – Staff reports ‘C2 and ‘C3’ were moved to the BFCG Discussion Calendar section under agenda item #7.

Notes & Comments – (NONE)

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS (NONE)

C. STAFF REPORTS –

6. ADMINISTRATION

A. *CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes of November 16, 2018 BFCG Board meeting
2. Voucher Summary – Through January 18, 2019

ACTION: Motion made by Phil Lemley, seconded by Jim Beaver, to approve consent calendar, as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. BFCG DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Resolution 01-19 Ratification of Adoption of the 2019 BFCG Administration Budget

Stephanie explained this budget is the same as last year’s budget. It is in line with what’s expected in the recent transportation staff changes. If there are amendments they will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Jim Beaver MOVED to approve the Ratification of the Adoption of the 2019 BFCG Administration Budget, SECONDED by Phil Lemley; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

B. Resolution 02-19 Adopt 2018 Human Services Transportation Plan

Patrick noted the 2018 HSTP was prepared by Len and is required periodically. WSDOT provides this process for BFCG to seek applicants in the community and those forwarded on to WSDOT for funding. There were four applicants, two from *People for People* and two from *Arc of Tri-cities*. Staff feels these projects would be a value to the transit community. Tony added it’s a great program that funds people with disabilities and the elderly. It fills gaps in the community that other transportation programs can’t provide.

Jim Beaver MOVED to approve the Adoption of the 2018 Human Services Transportation Plan, SECONDED by Linda Lehman; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

C. Approval of TIP Amendments

Patrick went over this month’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments. These amendments are common and are part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendments are separated into urban and rural categories. The urban amendments are required to go through the MPO TIP process while the rural amendments are not required to go through the process and can be sent directly to WSDOT but BFCG still needs to be aware of the changes.

Jim Beaver MOVED to approve the January TIP Amendments, SECONDED by Bob Larson; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

D. Ratification of Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) Renewal of Appointments

Stephanie met with the BFCG Executive Committee and it was requested the two BFCG Board members currently serving on the HAB to continue through 2019.

Jim Beaver MOVED to approve the ratification of the Renewal of HAB Appointments, SECONDED by Bob Larson; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

E. Ratification of 2019 Transportation Legislative Priorities

There was discussion regarding the list of projects included in the *2019 Transportation Legislative Priorities* document. Many members felt the exclusion of selected priorities submitted by BFCG was frustrating especially because there wasn't a reason why they were excluded. The group also questioned the validity of the document when it came to project funding. It was suggested in the future, the legislative transportation priorities group should address the goals and reasoning behind the document. It was also suggested it would be good to track state legislative transportation bills that could affect our region.

Jim Beaver MOVED to approve the ratification of the 2019 Legislative Priorities document, SECONDED by Phil Lemley; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

F. Authorization for BFCG to apply for Agency Credit Card for Travel and Other Expenses

Stephanie discussed BFCG's need for a new agency credit card. The past card has been cancelled and BFCG would like permission to apply for a new agency credit card.

Jim Beaver MOVED to approve BFCG's application for an Agency Credit Card, SECONDED by Linda Lehman; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

G. Intergovernmental Review (IGR) 01-2019, Prosser Hospital Project (Added Item)

Stephanie noted this IGR is for a new Prosser Hospital and they plan to apply for USDA loan funds. They have some land acquisition north of Interstate 82 and are looking for BFCG approval. BFCG usually approves these IGRs (there has only been one BFCG hasn't approved in the past because of a zoning issue) and this one is in order with the pertinent information.

Bob Larson MOVED to approve the IGR 01-2019, Prosser Hospital Project, SECONDED by Jim Beaver; motion UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

9. PUBLIC AND/OR BOARD COMMENT

Todd Trepanier – WSDOT South Central Region

Todd wanted to mention the calendar in the packet is off by a day.

The tunnel through Seattle is not open yet and the viaduct just closed. The grand opening for the tunnel is scheduled for February 2nd and there are already over 50,000 people planning to

attend. The viaduct had 70,000 – 90,000 trips a day and had exits to mid-town along the route. The new tunnel will not have those exits, it will completely bypass the main downtown area. There are going to be some major adjustments for downtown commuters.

Bob Larson – Port of Benton

Kelly Thompson with the Port of Benton is inviting the BFCG to hold its meetings in the Port's conference room if they would like.

Brian Malley – 2307 Franz Court, Richland

Brian wanted to express his view of how important legislative issues are for the area. He suggested it would be good idea for the region to work with the legislative council or try to advocate for a position on it.

Todd Trepanier – WSDOT South Central Region

Senator Hobbs, who is the ranking member on the Senate Transportation Committee is in the process of trying to put together another state revenue package. Revenue packages can take several legislative sessions to fall into. There will likely be a large portion dedicated to system preservation but there will also be other projects included which means legislative priorities are very important right now. WSDOT South Central region has made a list of what transportation projects are important to them in the area and they will share that list at a later PAC meeting. Now is the time to use connections in the area to come up with important transportation projects for the region.

It was asked what the status of funding is for the Connecting Washington projects?

There are updates of Connecting Washington projects and the status of their funding but nothing here today to hand out. Most of the projects are just getting started and the length of time to spend the money is 16 years. Locally only the Duportail Bridge project has come up with the match.

10. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 15, 2019

Location: Ben Franklin Transit Board Room

Meeting starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT – 10:54 a.m.

Approved at the February 15, 2019 meeting:

Nicholas (Skip) Novakovich, BFCG President