



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. - Thursday, September 6, 2018
1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland WA

1. CONVENE

TAC Chair Cary Roe called the meeting to order at 11:04 am at Ben Franklin Transit in Richland.

2. ROLL CALL

Benton County	Matt Rasmussen
Franklin County	Craig Erdman
Ben Franklin Transit	Bill Barlow
City of Kennewick	Cary Roe
City of Pasco	Steve Worley, Mary Heather Ames
City of Richland	Pete Rogalsky
City of West Richland	Roscoe Slade
Port of Pasco	
Port of Benton	
Port of Kennewick	
WSDOT - South Central	Paul Gonseth, Bill Preston, Linda Howell
City of Prosser	Marti Groom
City of Connell	Larry Turner
City of Mesa	
City of Benton City	
City of Kahlotus	
PNNL Battelle	
Mission Support Alliance	Lana Strickling

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Matt Rasmussen moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, and Craig Erdman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Recommendation to Approve the 2018 Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area Park and Ride Report

The 2018 Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area Park and Ride Report was out for comment more than 30 days. BFCG received a few comments that have been incorporated into the document.

Pete Rogalsky asked what's new and different in this update, and what the key recommendations are. Tanna Dole explained that some of the Travel Demand outputs, such as VHT increased significantly more than VMT indicating a need for more park and ride lots. More parts of the model were

incorporated into the document. Len worked closely with Transit to develop section 4 on future recommendations to develop the park and ride system. The inventories have been updated.

Discussion ensued on whether to delay adoption to incorporate further input and allow further review.

Matt Rasmussen moved to approve the 2089 Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area Park and Ride Report, and Pete Rogalsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. TIP/STIP Amendment (BFCG AUG-18) Ref. WSDOT – SR 225 Benton City

This is a new project that WSDOT-SC region has brought forward on SR 225 in Benton City. It is a total of \$214,000 to add ADA compliance elements to be delivered with a paving project. It is programmed for 2019. Staff recommends approval.

Paul Gonseth moved to approve the August TIP Amendments, and Matt Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Bill Barlow and Roscoe Slade arrived at 11:20 to fulfill quorum.*

5. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Distribution Options for Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funds

In April BFCG received notification from Federal Highways Administration for a one time Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) distribution of funds. The region's share of the HIP funds are \$739,176. They are not eligible for rural minor collectors, transportation alternatives, transit, ferries, planning or studies. There is a 13.5% match required. They must be obligated by 2021 or else they lapse. BFCG provided potential options for assigning the funds. Discussion ensued.

Tanna Dole requested emails from each jurisdiction with their preference for the distribution. A recommendation regarding the HIP funds distribution will come forward next meeting.

B. Draft 2019 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The draft 2019 TIP document has been uploaded to the website. There is also a link to the online interactive map of all secured projects in the TIP. New this year is a discussion on performance measures and more information on local ozone. There are 66 secured projects in the TIP with more analysis on a breakdown of funds in the TIP. BFCG held an open house at BFT on Wednesday August 29th from 5-7pm. Paul Parker from the Washington State Transportation Commission gave a presentation on the draft Washington State Transportation Plan Phase I and Robin Priddy from Benton Clean Air gave a presentation Ozone in the Tri-Cities. The 30 day public comment period started on the day of our open house. We will send any relevant comments or questions to jurisdictions.

C. Final Draft of Sidewalk Inventory Pilot

The draft Sidewalk Inventory Pilot program is now on BFCG's website. This project outlines and tests a method of regional data collection on metropolitan sidewalk conditions. There are three pilot areas with a variety of conditions, such as schools, neighborhoods, downtowns, and government services. It was created to explore how useful a metropolitan wide sidewalk inventory would be to the region, and as a trial for different methods of data collection. The scope was developed this way for several reasons: there is an increasing interest in walkability and transportation alternative in our public outreach efforts. Secondly, the next MTP update will have to address performance measures, and sidewalk data will be informative.

Also, Federal and State guidance requires Long Range Transportation Plans to address walkability as part of the multi-modal transportation system.

The process of data collection is well documented. Attribute data collected include: pavement conditions, sidewalk width, street buffers, permanent obstructions, non-permanent obstructions, notes and pictures. It is available on ArcGIS online. There is a brief section on data analysis. Then the plan outlines a path forward including a process to prioritize sidewalk investments. It cites a program from the National Highway Research Program to prioritize sidewalk investments. It takes into consideration local priorities. The list would not dictate where investments would occur, but rather as a guide for future planning efforts.

D. Transportation Demand Management/Trip Reduction

The memo begins with a brief history of CTR in the Tri-Cities. In 1991 when the law was enacted a county had to have a population of 150,000 to meet the criteria to be included into the CTR Program. It wasn't until 2002 that Benton County met that threshold. The Program's criteria changed in 2006; no longer using county population, but rather using person hours of delay, a more technical methodology to use as criteria for Program. The region did have a small segment, but there was a project planned that would mitigate the congested segment. BFCG received an exemption for the Program. Another exemption was in 2011, and was because of the state's budget. The CTR board stated that funding that existed for the programs would currently not be diverted to new areas and are still under an exemption because of funding.

The CTR Board has spent the last 18 months of exercises all around the state and collecting input about changes to the CTR program. They adopted a Strategic Plan in June 2018 that has a strong Transportation Demand Management approach to trip reduction. The Strategic Plan is included in the packet.

BFCG is recommending the formation of a TDM committee, which would be an overarching group of people that would be involved with the CMP, System Performance, Air Quality, and trip reduction/ TDM. BFCG recommends looking into a trip reduction pilot program. BFCG is currently looking for funding. Discussion ensued.

6. STAFF REPORTS:

A. Ozone (O₃) Workshop Recap

This was a general recap of the Ozone workshop held on July 19th. It was well attended with business and big industry being the majority in attendance. Two small working groups will be formed: business and industry the other to be transportation and health. Discussion ensued.

B. 2019 Tri-Cities Legislative Priorities

The 2018 legislative priorities were attached to prompt discussion for the upcoming 2019 legislative session. BFCG would like jurisdictions to send an email with comments of what the 2019 priorities should be. BFCG staff would like to have a draft for the October meetings and adopt in November.

C. WSDOT 2019 Rail System Plan

WSDOT are preparing for the development the 2019 Rail System Plan. They'd like some information from the locals on updating the projects within the 2017 Rail System Plan or adding new plans. There is an excel spreadsheet included to be used as the form for updates. There is no identified funding at this time. WSDOT would like the updated forms back by October 5th.

D. Coordinated Public Transportation - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP)

Linda Howell, WSDOT explained that the Human Services Transportation Plan is prepared every 4 years. There was an open house in July for both transportation providers and for their customers to come and

learn about what we're doing. There was a community survey sent out in July and a provider survey sent out in August. Sept 14th is the day that the consolidated grant application process closes. We tend to not have a lot of applications come in the Benton-Franklin region because once BFT became an urban system, there were a lot of funding sources that they were not eligible for. Part of the scoring includes a bunch of points that come from the region to make sure that regional priorities are considered. This region has 3 A's and 3 B's [to give out]. Routinely we have one or two projects. We have 3 projects this year.

E. Transportation Staffing

Jacob Gonzales, our modeler, took a job with Pasco this past month. It's an exciting opportunity for him, but that leaves us with a vacant chair. We have a recruitment out for the planner position. Tanna is anticipating retirement at the end of the year or at least a reduced capacity at that point. So we're going to be recruiting for the transportation manager position in the very near future.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Bill Barlow, Ben Franklin Transit: Everything is about what it was last time. Still looking for a good location for partnering. We did get a couple of good responses for our amenities so we'll be able to start purchasing those soon. Interested in the sidewalk pilot so we can look at ADA.

Linda Howell, WSDOT: Next week the consolidated grant application will close, and they will announce the awards in April. In between that time we're doing number crunching and evaluating. We're expecting about 800 applications. By the way, this is not what funds CTR or regional mobility grants.

Paul Gonseth, WSDOT: September 20th we'll have the kickoff for our integrated scoping. We'll be looking at transportation demand management information. Streetlight data will have OD information, and the consultant will work first on the SR 240 corridor. The day after our workshop the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) will be in Walla Walla on Friday.

Marti Groom, Prosser: 7th street project is winding down, we're down to a few sidewalks and streetlights.

Larry Turner, Connell: Finishing up the paperwork for the pavement resurface program.

Craig Erdman, Franklin County: Juniper Dunes went to Ad today. Hoping to get the Taylor Flats Bridge AD out in October.

Lana Strickling, Mission Support Alliance: Thanks for having me and I look forward to working with you.

8. NEXT MEETING:

October 4th, 2018 -- 11:00 a.m. Ben Franklin Transit, Richland

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cary Roe adjourned the meeting at 12:48 pm