



# BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting 11:00 a.m. - Thursday, August 1, 2019

Ben Franklin Transit, 1000 Columbia Park Trail Richland, WA 99354

### 1. CONVENE

TAC Chair Matt Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at Ben Franklin Transit.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Jurisdiction	Agency
Benton County	Matt Rasmussen, Chairman
City of Richland	Pete Rogalsky, Vice Chairman
Ben Franklin Transit	Keith Hall
City of Benton City	Kyle Kurth
City of Connell	
Franklin County	Craig Erdman
City of Kahlotus	
City of Kennewick	Cary Roe
City of Mesa	
City of Pasco	
City of Prosser	Marty Groom
City of West Richland	Roscoe Slade
Mission Support Alliance	
PNNL Battelle	
Port of Pasco	
Port of Benton	Roger Wright
Port of Kennewick	
WSDOT - South Central	Paul Gonseth

BFCG Staff	Erin Braich Tony Kalmbach Patrick Pittenger Stephanie Seamans Geoff Wagner
Guests	Chuck Torelli, City of Kennewick Phil Lemley, City of Richland Rick Dawson, Benton-Franklin Health District Spencer Montgomery, JUB Engineers Inc.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Craig Erdman made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Pete Rogalsky SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### A. Air quality outreach and education campaign update

Tony Kalmbach gave a summary of the air quality outreach campaign Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCG) has been administering over the past several months. The outreach has been placed on several media platforms in English and Spanish. Pete Rogalsky asked if BFCG had considered asking agency partners to use their social media platforms to create more awareness. Matt Rasmussen also suggested the Benton County website as a possibility. Tony Kalmbach thanked members of the TAC and said he would work with PS Media on their suggestions. Pete Rogalsky asked when the campaign will end and what happens after that. Tony Kalmbach responded that the campaign ends on August 31. PS Media will be providing information on how many people accessed the website and how many people signed up for Washington State University alerts. Roger Wright asked if someone was going to look at the data to see if there was an actual improvement in air quality. Tony Kalmbach explained the data would show how many people were reached by the different outreach methods. Paul Gonseth asked if there have been non-compliance days. As of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting there had been no poor air quality days reported. Stephanie Seamans added that the campaign hopefully demonstrates to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) our region's awareness of air quality and the region is being proactive to educate and attempt to reduce poor ozone.

#### B. Growth Management Act (GMA) process

Erin Braich discussed the GMA process. BFCG is responsible to certify the transportation portion of comprehensive plans. Staff will bring reviewed comprehensive plans to the TAC for comments and to the Board for approval. Erin Braich thanked multiple member agencies for their efforts in communicating updates and getting plans approved. Pete Rogalsky asked if staff would be reviewing previously plans adopted by local jurisdictions. Patrick Pittenger said Benton County's plan needed to be reviewed because it was being amended. West Richland reached out to BFCG of their own accord. BFCG is not actively seeking to review previously adopted plans.

#### C. Travel demand modeling services contract update

Patrick Pittenger updated the TAC on the recent process of selecting a travel demand consultant. Patrick Pittenger thanked City of Richland and Ben Franklin Transit for helping in the selection process. Five qualified candidates applied for the contract. Staff coordinated with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to ensure the contract met their requirements. Staff will be meeting with the selected consultant August 7. Cary Roe asked if the consultant would be updating the model. Patrick Pittenger responded that next year would be the full model update. The current contract is to review and make recommendations on areas the model could be improved, possible expansion of the modeling boundaries, technical assistance with the Congestion Management Process (CMP), and on-call support to assist staff with data requests as needed. Cary Roe asked

for clarification if the contract was \$85,000 annually and if the on-call services would be used to complete Pasco's modeling. Patrick Pittenger clarified that the contract was for the year and is slated to end on June 30, 2020. BFCG will not be conducting any modeling for Pasco, but the consultant may assist BFCG in working with Pasco on the modeling process. Pete Rogalsky reminded staff that City of Richland is already working on a project with the current model. Patrick Pittenger stated that he realized that their process was underway, but the model is ready to use and capable of analyzing the information needed for their project while additional improvements are considered.

#### D. 2019 Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds

Geoff Wagner informed the TAC about the changes to HIP funding. Last year the region received \$739,000 for urban small, urban large, and rural projects. This year the region received \$799,000, but the funds will only be available for projects in the urban large area. Patrick Pittenger commented that staff will add the funds to the call for projects process and there is a timeline to utilize the funding. Paul Gonseth mentioned other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are over programming slightly and putting HIP money towards the over programmed projects. Pete Rogalsky asked if BFCG would be getting guidance on programming out years by WSDOT. Patrick Pittenger mentioned he will be attending joint meeting between WSDOT and MPO's and that he would bring it up at the meeting to get additional information and direction.

#### E. 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) obligation status – WSDOT target

Geoff Wagner explained that this is the time of year where we need to meet our obligation target. Geoff Wagner confirmed with jurisdictions the status of projects and helped the group understand how close to the target our region is. Additional discussion took place about status of projects. Patrick Pittenger spoke about the region over programming last year meaning that the target for this year was less. BFCG is waiting to learn if a project will make the deadline so the regional target will be met.

#### F. 2020 – 2025 TIP update

Geoff Wagner spoke about the submission of projects by local agencies. Geoff Wagner requested to get the edits back as soon as possible so they can be included in the draft TIP 2020-2025 document. Geoff Wagner will be sending out an invite to the open house that will be on August 28, at the Pasco Public Library. Additional discussion took place about projects that should be included in the TIP. Only projects secured with state or federal funding should be included in the TIP.

### **5. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### A. Recommendation to approve 2019 - 2024 TIP amendments

Geoff Wagner requested the TAC take action on funding increases and construction phase changes at the 397 and Bruno rail road crossing and 240 pedestrian facilities over Columbia Center Boulevard. Cary Roe asked about the 240 signal location and purpose for the Columbia Center Boulevard project. Paul Gonseth said that the signal location would be at both ramp terminals and confirmed that the changes were to accommodate pedestrian movement and increase pedestrian capacity.

A MOTION was made by Paul Gonseth and SECONDED by Pete Rogalsky to approve 2019-2024 TIP amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. MEMBER COMMENTS:**

### Keith Hall – Ben Franklin Transit

Said Ben Franklin Transit will be providing service to the fair this year and stated that if you are interested in attending the fair, please take the bus.

### Roscoe Slade – City of West Richland

Commented that West Richland is on schedule for the Bombing Range Road bridge rehab to be completed late fall. West Richland is currently working with a developer on extending Keene Road as part of a preliminary plat.

### Roger Wright – Port of Benton

Explained that the Executive Director retired and Diane Howard will serve as the interim Executive Director until the position can be filled.

### Paul Gonseth – WSDOT South Central

Discussed the integrated scoping process for 240 is still ongoing. Paul Gonseth thanked members of the TAC for their participation in the process. Paul Gonseth stated that the initial report didn't describe performance measures very well and headquarters provided additional feedback in other areas that could be strengthened. The adjustments should be finished sometime in August. Paul Gonseth has been coordinating with multiple agencies to increase non-motorized connectivity to Hood Park in Burbank.

### Pete Rogalsky – City of Richland

Updated the TAC about the Duportail Bridge being on track and within budget. Currently contractors have installed one of five deck slabs, the final four should be done one a week through the end of August. The City of Richland was able to secure an additional \$1.7 million from the state to help with the resurfacing on George Washington Way. The additional funding will help to expand the scope of the project. Approximately six weeks ago City of Richland finished a seal at the South end of George Washington Way. The bond seemed to be working well, but there was a material failure. The City of Richland believes that a combination of high heat and stop and go rush hour traffic caused the material failure. The contractor will be coming back to make repairs and find a solution. City of Richland is currently involved in two major studies, the Regional North-South Travel Capacity Study and the Downtown Connectivity Study.

### Craig Erdman – Franklin County

Spoke about Juniper Dunes expansion being complete and open to the public. The Taylor Flats Bridge construction is complete and open to the public. Franklin County has a couple of safety projects underway and after they are complete they will be moving on to the Basin City project.

Cary Roe – City of Kennewick

Reminded the TAC about the City of Kennewick working with WSDOT on the US395/Ridgeline Drive Interchange. Currently the city is involved in right of way acquisition for the project. The plan is to have the project bid out late 2019 or early 2020. The City of Kennewick received federal funds from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to overlay Kennewick Avenue and install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps. The City of Kennewick is also underway with their own pavement preservation program on Union Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Kellogg Street. Cary Roe asked when the call for projects would take place, Patrick responded that the call for projects would take place in November. Patrick said that several items need to be completed such as the TIP policy and procedures and CMP. The CMP is not driving the call for projects, it is just one element that is outstanding and needs to be updated. Additional discussion occurred around timeline to complete the CMP and the correlation the CMP has with Ozone and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding.

Matt Rasmussen – Benton County

Mentioned that the pathway between Candy Mountain and Badger Mountain had been completed. All that is left is the installation of signage, but installation should be wrapped up by next week. Patrick Pittenger mentioned that Benton County is working on their Build Grant application for the Wisser Parkway project and wished them good luck.

Patrick Pittenger

Informed the TAC about the rail project in Connell. The project is funded by Connecting Washington. The City Manager of Connell said she is interested in presenting more information about the project to the TAC and Board. Stephanie Seamans discussed the regional significance of the project and her appreciation of Connell for informing other agencies about their project.

**7. NEXT MEETING: TAC Meeting**

September 5, 2019 – Ben Franklin Transit, 1000 Columbia Park Trail in Richland.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Matt Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 11:57a.m.



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Matt Rasmussen, Chair TAC