



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
8:30 a.m. - Thursday, December 5, 2019
Ben Franklin Transit, 1000 Columbia Park Trail Richland

1. CONVENE

TAC Chair Matt Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 8:32 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 Kennewick	Cary Roe
City of Pasco	Steve Worley
City of Prosser	Marty Groom
City of West Richland	Roscoe Slade
Franklin County	Craig Erdman
Port of Benton	Roger Wright
Port of Kennewick	Larry Peterson
WSDOT - South Central	Paul Gonseth

BFCG Staff Present:

Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Programs Manager
Erin Braich, Transportation Planning Specialist II
Geoff Wagner, Transportation Planning Specialist II
Tanner Martin, Transportation Planning Specialist II

Guests:

Alan Rainey, Spink Engineering
Chuck Torelli, City of Kennewick
Bill Barlow, Ben Franklin Transit
Bill Preston, WSDOT South Central
Sorin Juster, City of Kennewick
Spencer Montgomery, JUB Engineers

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Vice Chairman Rogalsky made a MOTION to approve the agenda, Craig Erdman SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Steve Worley made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Keith Hall SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

A. Recommend approval of the BFCG Congestion Management Process (CMP) update

Erin mentioned the CMP has been updated and comments received from the stakeholders have been addressed and incorporated in to the document along with better traffic data than the previous update.

Vice Chairman Rogalsky made a MOTION to recommend approval of the BFCG Congestion Management Process (CMP) update, Keith Hall SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Recommend approval of the 2019 Call for Projects funding allocations

Patrick started the Call for Projects by mentioning Obligation Authority (OA) and the possibility of sanctioning funds if regional, annual targets set by the Washington State Department of Transportation) WSDOT are not met. If the region misses its target two years in a row by the end of the Federal Fiscal Year - on September 30 of each year - sanctioning of funds can occur. If the region makes its target by August 1 it has the potential to receive additional funding. If the region meets the September 30 date, the area receives no additional funding, but meets the required target date.

Patrick also noted that PSRC recently hosted a project delivery summit. Stephanie Tax from WSDOT spoke on the most important issues for project programming. She mentioned a major concern is when local agencies program two phases of a project in the same year. This is a problem throughout the state with local projects stating preliminary engineering (PE) and right-of-way (ROW) can obligate in the same year, but then it often does not happen. ROW is very time-consuming and most of the time it takes longer than anticipated. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was also in attendance and noted that Washington State has a relatively high rate of inactive projects. FHWA reviews projects that aren't progressing, and the funds can be taken back and applied to other projects, so project sponsors should make sure to make consistent progress on projects once obligated.

Paul Gonseth asked what happens if there are de-obligations and there are extra funds for the Call for Projects. Patrick noted there are already recently de-obligated funds included in the Call for Projects and that there will be a contingency list of unfunded projects eligible for other funds which may become available in the future.

BFCG staff discussed the eligibility of projects for different funding types. Patrick noted that as was indicated in the Call for Projects guidance document, the application

materials, and was discussed at previous meetings, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)-eligible projects are the only ones eligible for TAP/ STBG set-aside funding. However, the TAP/STBG set-aside funding level represents the minimum level of funding for TAP eligible projects, as they are eligible for “regular” STBG funds as well. Cary Roe indicated that past practice of this organization and his understanding was that only projects which were STBG eligible (not TAP eligible) would compete for STBG funds. Patrick indicated that STBG funds are eligible for a wide variety of uses, including TAP eligible activities. Pete Rogalsky and Roscoe Slade indicated that they agreed that TAP projects should not be able to compete against projects which competed STBG application forms. Patrick clarified that the intent of the TAC members present was to not compare the results of the scoring for TAP projects with other STBG projects, and Cary Roe indicated that was the case.

Patrick indicated while that is an option that is allowable, the region will need to determine how to compare and prioritize projects for different modes in the future which are all eligible for STBG funds. Patrick pointed-out that while BFT did not apply for transit capital projects in this Call for Projects, which is an eligible use of the funds. He indicated that staff would look forward to working with member jurisdictions before the next Call for Projects to address this issue.

Kyle Kurth noted that because of a conversation about this topic at a previous TAC meeting, Benton City did not complete an STBG application for their proposed project, as it was indicated that their projects were eligible for both TAP and STBG funds. The group agree to proceed with the scoring and that the issue would be addressed as needed after the scoring results were known.

It was noted that TAC members would be scoring all projects except their own. As the Cities of Kennewick and Richland had submitted joint applications for two projects, neither jurisdiction would score either. Patrick stated that this situation had not been foreseen, and that staff would look to address how such a situation would be addressed in future processes.

Each of the 29 applications were considered in turn with TAC members having the opportunity to ask questions of the sponsoring agency as needed. BFCG staff compiled the results and shared them with the TAC for further consideration. Funds were matched to the project in each funding category and the year of obligation, with the highest scoring project being funded first in each category. As the available funding did not match specific project requests, several projects received partial funding with the approval of the sponsoring agencies.

There was \$135,000 in the STBG Rural category that was not programmed. Chairman Rasmussen noted that those funds could be allocated to one of the Rural STBG or TAP projects selected for funding in this process if any of them require additional funding as they proceed.

The projects that did not receive funding, or received partial funding only, would all be included in a list of contingency projects for funding should funds become available.

Patrick pointed-out that there is a need to review the funding allocations by year and category – to make sure the projects “fit” the available funds. Paul Gonseth suggested that this group when making a recommendation to the BFCG Board authorizes BFCG staff to shift selected projects within the program as needed with the approval of the applicable sponsoring jurisdictions. The group agreed with this concept.

Cary Roe made a MOTION to recommend approval of the 2019 Call for Projects funding allocations, Roscoe Slade SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **MEMBER COMMENTS:**


Chairman Rasmussen mentioned there will be a ribbon cutting for the Wiser Parkway Public Services building on December 17, at 1:30 p.m.

8. **NEXT MEETING: TAC Meeting**

January 2, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – Ben Franklin Transit, 1000 Columbia Park Trail in Richland.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Matt Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.



Matt Rasmussen, Chair TAC

Pete Regolsky Vice-Chair