



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. - Thursday, November 7, 2019
City of West Richland, 3100 Belmont Boulevard, West Richland

1. CONVENE

TAC Chair Matt Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. at the City of West Richland.

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
Franklin County	Craig Erdman
City of Kennewick	Cary Roe
City of Pasco	Steve Worley
Port of Benton	Roger Wright
City of Prosser	Marty Groom
City of West Richland	Roscoe Slade
WSDOT - South Central	Paul Gonseth

BFCG Staff Present:

Stephanie Seamans, Executive Director
Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Programs Manager
Erin Braich, Transportation Planning Specialist II
Geoff Wagner, Transportation Planning Specialist II
Tanner Martin, Transportation Planning Specialist II

Guests:

John Christensen, Franklin County
Rick Dawson, Benton-Franklin Health District
Kathleen Neuman, Franklin County
Bill Preston, WSDOT South Central

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Craig Erdman made a MOTION to approve the agenda, Kyle Kurth SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

5. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. BFCG draft Congestion Management Process (CMP) update

Erin gave an update on the Congestion Management Process. BFCG staff thanks the TAC members and other stakeholders who participated in three meetings regarding this effort. INRIX data – obtained through the contracted BFCG consultant - was utilized for travel speeds and was very helpful in conjunction with BFCG travel demand model data. The draft document is available for public review and a public meeting is scheduled for November 13th in Kennewick. The draft will be shared with the BFCG Board at the November 15th meeting. Staff expects to seek Board approval of the final document at the December meeting.

B. Travel Demand Model Work Group

Patrick noted the Travel Demand Model Work Group met to discuss a review of the model completed by BFCG's travel demand modeling consultant. The model was reviewed and recommendations regarding how it can be approved in the short-term were presented. The improvements recommended are listed in the brief report attached to this item in the agenda packet. The current contract for travel demand modeling consultation includes funds for model improvements, and the contract amount is sufficient to implement the recommended improvements. The consultant expects to complete the improvements and submit the modified model in February of 2020.

Patrick discussed the potential for on-call modeling services which could be utilized by BFCG members. The concept is that BFCG could budget additional on-call services funded at 86.5% with federal funds to complete work at the request of member jurisdictions. The jurisdictions would provide the match to the Federal funds and TAC could approve the use of federal funds in this manner to resources region wide. If a member jurisdiction requested modeling work, there would need to be an agreement on cost and scope of work. As an example, the City of Pasco requested modeling work and the cost was only \$1,500 which worked out very well for everyone involved under the current contract. If this is something the group would be interested in, it could be worked out for use by other jurisdictions. Cary Roe asked if federal funds are used for modeling what other tasks are losing those funds to modeling efforts. Patrick noted there are other potential uses for those federal funds, including freight and corridor studies. The funds used for this effort have to be planning funds and would be carryover funds. Pete Rogalsky asked if it would be a good idea to evaluate the next Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for planning needs and if it's possible to see a detailed UPWP budget. Patrick said a detailed breakdown of the UPWP budget is included in the UPWP and is available to whomever would like to see it. It was the consensus of the group that on-call modeling availability would benefit the region. Patrick indicated that BFCG staff would begin considering how to implement such an effort when developing the next UPWP which will start July 1, 2020.

C. MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Meetings

Patrick gave a summary on the recent MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Meeting in Seattle. Some of the points discussed included land use in transportation planning and system preservation. WSDOT is updating the Highway System Plan. The opinion from the state wide group is that there is a desire to avoid redundancy with the state's M/RTPs that are already in place. Also discussed was the acquisition of travel data statewide, as BFCG has recently acquired INRIX data and others are doing the same or acquiring other datasets. There may be opportunities to collaborate with other agencies. RTPO funding for the biennium increased 11%, with PSRC receiving most of the increase and BFCG receiving an increase of only about 2%. The increase is not permanent and will revert to lower levels without legislative action. Earlier last week, Stephanie Tax of WSDOT sent five obligation sanction scenarios to all of the MPOs and RTPOs in the state. There were eight MPOs that did not meet their targets, including BFCG which missed the target by about \$119,000. One of the scenarios would be to take about \$7 million from the eight that did not meet their targets and give those funds to the four MPOs that did exceed their targets. If an MPO doesn't meet their target by August 1st each year funds could be sanctioned. There is a meeting on November 25th to discuss the method of these unanticipated scenarios and Patrick will be attending along with many others due to the current and future implications.

D. 2019 Call for Projects Reminder

Patrick reminded the group the Call for Projects applications are due tomorrow. Staff looks forward to hearing from everyone and each application will be reviewed and if clarifications are needed will notify the project sponsor. Applications should be emailed, but they may be delivered in hard copies as well.

E. 2020 TIP Amendment Due Dates

Geoff mentioned the monthly date amendments need to be submitted to BFCG. The rule has been three weeks before the monthly TAC meetings with the exact dates in the table included in the packet. Patrick explained the January 2020 TIP amendments will include the projects selected in the Call for Projects. With the holidays, it was decided to have the amendments due to BFCG on December 30th. The TAC will be presented on January 2 with a request to recommend amendment of the TIP and STIP consistent with Board Call for Projects decisions of December 20th. The Board will act on January 17th on individual TIP amendments.

F. Recommendation to Approve Draft BFCG Regional Transportation Priorities 2020 – Programs and Projects list

Patrick noted the Regional Transportation Priority TAC group met to develop a list of the region's priorities with all of the proposed projects and programs from member jurisdictions. It was determined the best way forward was to have a list of transportation funding programs (TIB, CRAB) that need increased funding to be beneficial to our area. The list would also contain supporting economic development areas by funding the Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) program. There are also projects included from the Tri-Cities area that need funding to improve the transportation network. There will also be a list of funded and unfunded projects that will come from the results of this year's Call for

Projects. Patrick also noted the list will be shared with the local Good Roads Legislative Committee and the Tri-Cities Legislative Council after BFCG Board approval.

Craig Erdman suggested adding the word 'construct' to the Rural Arterial Program text.

Pete Rogalsky mentioned the list is a positive step to take and would like to thank Patrick for taking the lead on the document.

Roscoe Slade wanted to make sure it will be updated annually and Patrick confirmed that is the intent of staff.

Cary Roe wanted to know if other projects can be added if they are not are not part of the Call for Projects. Roscoe Slade mentioned they can be added to the list later.

Roger Wright suggested using heavier glossy paper when distributing and emphasizing text regarding needed funding when printing the final document. He also suggested including a map of the programs and projects on the backside.

Cary Roe mentioned if Good Roads is going to review the list they will more than likely want to include the US 12 project. Patrick indicated that Good Roads includes Walla Walla County and it may include Walla Walla projects on their list, but BFCG would provide this list as the input of its many member jurisdictions. He also noted that the population of Benton and Franklin Counties is about five times that of Walla Walla County.

Pete Rogalsky made a MOTION to approve the Draft BFCG Regional Transportation Priorities 2020 –Programs and Projects list, Cary Roe SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously with the addition of heavier glossier paper including a map on the backside and adding the word *construct* in the text '*to construct and maintain the Rural Arterial Program*'.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Patrick mentioned Good Roads is having a meeting on November 13th to meet with state legislators.

Roscoe Slade noted that if Good Roads wants to endorse the BFCG Programs and Priorities list that would be fine with him.

Pete Rogalsky suggested "flooding the market" with the list and getting it out there as much as possible.

Bill Preston wanted to make sure everyone received information regarding the safety call for projects from WSDOT. Brian Hunter has retired from local programs and Phil Nugent has been hired in his place.

Cary Roe mentioned Governor Inslee has suspended state transportation funding because of the passing of Initiative 976.

Bill Preston noted WSDOT is following Governor Inslee's orders to suspend state funding. It's too early to tell how it will affect projects.

8. **NEXT MEETING: TAC Meeting**

December 5, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.– Ben Franklin Transit, 1000 Columbia Park Trail in Richland.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Matt Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.



Matt Rasmussen, Chair TAC