



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. - Thursday, April 4, 2019

Ben Franklin Transit, 1000 Columbia Park Trail Richland

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 Kahlottus	
City of Kennewick	Bruce Mills
City of Mesa	
City of Pasco	Steve Worley
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	Bill Preston

BFCG Staff	Erin Braich Tony Kalmbach Patrick Pittenger Stephanie Seamans Geoff Wagner
Guests	Bob Koch, BFCG Board Member Jim Coleman, Benton-Franklin Health District Brian Malley, Member of Public Spencer Montgomery, JUB Engineers

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. WSDOT 2019 Freight and Goods Transportation System (FGTS) Update Reminder

Tony mentioned the data requested for the FGTS and first/last mile connector update as requested by WSDOT. Cities and ports are to report their FGTS data to BFCG. The counties are to report their FGTS data to CRAB. Ports, counties and cities are to report first/last mile to BFCG. The goal is to create a unified report on our area's regional freight routes.

There were questions on what data is used when submitting updated freight data. The Regional Traffic Count Program recently conducted in 2018 contains classification data which can be used in the WSDOT formula for freight tonnage.

BFCG will look further into the WSDOT freight request to gather more details on what the best method to calculate the requested data would be.

B. 2019 STIP Obligation Status – WSDOT Target

Geoff explained BFCG has a yearly target for STBG funding. Agency and jurisdictions with secured funding in 2019 need to let BFCG know if their project(s) will be obligated in the 2019 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). Currently, from the responses BFCG has received on the jurisdictions' planned obligations the region is approaching the target. Jurisdictions were reminded to update BFCG staff with any schedule changes which would impact meeting the target.

C. Schedule of Future Meetings

After discussion with the group at the previous meeting and feedback from members since, it was decided to keep the TAC meetings at 11:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Recommendation to Approve 2019-2024 TIP Amendments (BFCG Amd.19-APR)

Geoff reviewed several proposed TIP amendments. Richland has safety projects with secured HSIP funding they would like added to the 2019 STIP and Benton City is adding local funds received from Benton County. WSDOT South Central US 395 Sound Wall project needs to be amended due to higher anticipated construction costs.

A MOTION was made by Pete Rogalsky and SECONDED by Craig Erdman to approve *the April 2019-2024 TIP Amendments*. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Recommendation to Amend Budget of FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Patrick explained UPWP funding and recent budgetary issues. There needs to be an amendment in place to continue the current UPWP and keep it consistent with the BFCG budget. BFCG has been making improvements in invoicing and financial organization. The agency does have sufficient federal funding available but it wasn't budgeted in the current UPWP. There are no changes in the UPWP tasks. This amendment allows the agency to access the state and federal money that's available to us.

A MOTION was made by Pete Rogalsky and SECONDED by Craig Erdman to recommend *amending the FY 2019 UPWP Budget*. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Recommendation to Increase STBG Funding for BFCG Planning Activities

Patrick explained the STBG funding scenarios for next year. The two scenarios were included in the agenda item. Under the first scenario, a base scenario with no change in STBG funding the number of budgeted positions in transportation would decrease. While there would be some funding available for consultant assistance, the capacity of BFCG would decrease. Under the second scenario, the funding from STBG for planning and for traffic counts would be combined and the funding level increased. The proposed amount would total 6% of STBG funds. The increase in funding is estimated to be about \$150,000 annually, from \$100,000 average per year to about \$250,000. With the proposed increase in funding, BFCG would be able to retain the previously budgeted transportation staffing level. There would also be additional funding for Travel Demand Model consulting services which is a key element for the agency. The agency needs to ensure that it can meet federal and state requirements and the needs of our jurisdictions.

The TAC discussed the option of percentage versus a flat amount increase. The percentage has the potential to fluctuate due to STBG allocation. Patrick mentioned the percentage could be reviewed periodically. An upcoming opportunity to do so would be during the call for projects in fall. Also, even if the proposed increase in funding is approved, authority to expend the funds will be derived from the UPWP, which needs to be reviewed and approved annually. The group agreed the funding increase will help with future federal, state and local tasks.

A MOTION was made by Pete Rogalsky and SECONDED by Roscoe Slade to approve the *increase of STBG Funding for BFCG Planning Activities*. The motion passed unanimously.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Pete Rogalsky – Richland

The state legislature is working on a transportation package and now is the time to develop regional capabilities so they can be considered for a future package. Duportail bridge girders are being put in place and you can view the work on Richland's website.

Bruce Mills – Kennewick

US 395 and Ridgeline is in the 60% design phase and planning to have a public meeting in late May.

Craig Erdman – Franklin County

Girders are being placed for the Taylor Flats Bridge. Juniper Dunes is going to starting back up after the winter shutdown. Both projects should be finished in May. Looking to push out the county's safety projects later this year.

Kyle Kurth – Benton City

The 9th Street sidewalk project construction should begin in June or July.

Steve Worley – Pasco

Traffic Signal Improvements Phase II is moving toward the Right of Way phase but have BNSF and a US Post Office to work with for sidewalk improvements. Awarded Chapel Hill Boulevard project and the creation of the LID is finished.

Matt Rasmussen – Benton County

Got the obligation for the Badger/Candy Mountain connector pathway project and construction should start in a month or so. The Parks Department is going to pave the access road to the Candy Mountain Trailhead.

Bill Preston - WSDOT

A reminder to contact your contractors and remind them to go into DMCS and enter their payment information. When a project is finished make sure the contractor clicks the 'Final Payment' button or a zero if nothing is going on.

7. NEXT MEETING: TAC Meeting

May 2, 2019 – City of West Richland, 3100 Belmont Boulevard

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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



Matt Rasmussen, Chair TAC