



BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. - Thursday, March 7, 2018
Richland City Shop, 2700 Duportail Street

1. CONVENE

TAC Chair Matt Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Richland City Shop.

2. ROLL CALL

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	Hallie Tuck
City of Kahlotus	
City of Kennewick	Cary Roe
City of Mesa	
City of Pasco	Steve Worley
City of Prosser	Marty Groom,
City of West Richland	Roscoe Slade
Franklin County	Kathleen Neuman
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 Patrick Pittenger Stephanie Seamans Geoff Wagner
Guests	Rick Dawson, Benton-Franklin Health District Kerwin Jensen, City of Richland Phil Lemley, Richland City Council Bill Preston, WSDOT South Central Kevin Slinger, Ben Franklin Transit Andrew Robinson, City of Prosser

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Pete Rogalsky moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Roscoe Slade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Schedule of Future Meetings

There was discussion on future TAC meeting times. The current time 11:00 a.m. and options of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. were discussed with several of the members preferring an earlier time. The group felt an earlier time would be better for some members although some members mentioned it might be hard for some elected officials at that time due to work schedules. Earlier in the morning is more difficult for WSDOT, but the current time is more difficult for elected officials who were previously members of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) with was recently dissolved. It was decided to keep the current time for now and have members consider times suggested to be discussed at the next meeting.

B. April 1st 2018 – March 31st, 2019 Title VI Annual Report Submission to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

Patrick stated the 2019 Title VI Annual Report is submitted to WSDOT and includes updated information in the period between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Updated information includes updating staff contacts and information about transportation activities. The Title VI Plan is currently being updated now and is required periodically to assure all state and federal requirements are met – that plan is the subject of Item 5B of this agenda.

C. Discussion of Call for Projects Timeline

Patrick noted a call for projects planned for this year can be scheduled for this spring or later in the fall. The call for projects will need to be coordinated with the annual development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He asked the group what time of year would be preferred. Most of the group mentioned fall would work better and that spring would be too soon for some agencies. It was decided to hold a call for projects in the fall to be coordinated with the annual TIP process.

D. Report on Statewide Planning Meeting/RTPO Fund Distribution

Patrick gave an update on the statewide planning meeting concerning RTPO funding and how the other RTPOs in the state are progressing on performance measures and UPWP items. WSDOT Active Transportation staff will be visiting BFCG to talk about the Statewide Active Transportation Plan, which will be developed by the State this year. The statewide plan will be a look at how the state system interacts with the local system. BFCG is scheduled to update the regional active transportation plan starting early in 2020. WSDOT indicated at the statewide planning meeting that there is a budget proposal for \$13 million for four areas of the state to study congestion alleviation, but the Tri-Cities area wasn't included on that list. The RTPO funding distribution formula hasn't changed in 15 years. RTPO funding statewide is increasing by \$500,000 statewide, or about 11.4%. While WSDOT has not yet made a final determination on the funding distribution, it is being discussed that a completely new formula will be used. As a result, BFCG (and some of the other RTPOs) is expected to receive a funding increases of only 3% with others like PSRC and Walla Walla expected to receive substantial increases.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Recommendation to Enter Into Contract with Department of Ecology and Award the Air Quality Outreach and Education Campaign Grant Contract to PS Media

Patrick gave a brief summary of the air quality efforts underway. BFCG along with the Department of Ecology have been working together on a media campaign proposal to inform the public on local air quality. If approved, PS Media will conduct a public outreach and education campaign on ozone awareness. It will include which days might have higher than average ozone levels and what public can do to minimize the contributors that cause low level ozone. Roger Wright stated that the Department of Energy and its contractors will need to be involved regarding future air quality discussions. Steve Worley stated that he had experience with air quality impacts on the transportation planning and programming process in another urbanized area of the state, and pointed-out that should the Tri-Cities move into non-attainment status, there are impacts on many activities of BFCG and member agencies. Pete Rogalsky discusses the role of BFCG in this area and if other agencies, like the Benton-Franklin Health District, would be involved in the future. Patrick stated that while BFCG is undertaking this effort, BFCG looks forward to discussing future roles and responsibilities for future work efforts as needed.

A MOTION was made by Roscoe Slade and SECONDED by Pete Rogalsky to approve *Entering into a Contract with the Department of Ecology and Award the Air Quality Outreach and Education Campaign Grant Contract to PS Media*. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Recommendation to Approve Draft of Updated BFCG Title VI Plan for 30 day Comment Period

Erin mentioned the Draft BFCG Title VI Plan is ready for a 30 day comment period and would like the recommendation to approve the draft for comment. This draft update does not include any substantive changes, but staff contacts, demographic data, and public involvement elements were updated. If approved by the Board on March 15, a public comment period will be announced and a public meeting will be held April 10th.

A MOTION was made by Paul Gonseth and SECONDED by Roger Wright to approve the *30 day comment period for the Draft BFCG Title VI Plan*. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Recommendation to Approve Draft Public Participation Plan for 45 day Comment Period

Patrick noted this action item is similar to the one before and is seeking approval of the Draft BFCG Public Participation Plan for a 45 day comment period. This is the only document that has a required 45 day comment period BFCG produces.

A MOTION was made by Pete Rogalsky and SECONDED by Kathleen Neuman to approve the *Draft BFCG Public Participation Plan for 45 day Comment Period*. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Recommendation to Increase STBG Funding for BFCG Planning Activities

Patrick discussed that the BFCG Board has the ability to direct the used of STBG funds, and planning by BFCG is one eligible use. Currently, 1.5% of STBG funds are allocated to planning by BFCG and utilized through the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Additionally, about \$100,000 is allocated every other year to the traffic count program conducted by BFCG. Staff is seeking an increase of funds allocated to BFCG planning. The proposed amount would be 6% of STBG funds, or about \$250,000 annually. The funds would be used to maintain and improve BFCG services to meet state and federal requirements and serve member agencies. Patrick stated that he had heard from a member of the TAC prior to the meeting, and the member asked that additional information be provided prior to a request for action. Patrick indicated that BFCG is happy to provide more information and recent developments allow for a delay. There are other funds currently available to invoice ongoing expenses. Cary Roe stated that he would also like additional contextual information regarding how these funds would be used in the budget, identification of existing funding sources and how they are being used, and other modifications being made to the budgeting process that impact program development and delivery. It was agreed that no action

would be taken by the TAC and that action would not be requested of the Board in March either. TAC members asked for Staff agreed to develop that information and share it with the TAC for consideration at the April 7, 2019 meeting.

Action Item - Recommendation to Increase STBG Funding for BFCG Planning Activities was tabled for a later date.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Steve Worley – Pasco

Pasco is getting farther along in design on the Lewis Street Project and looking to go out to bid and start construction later this year.

Bill Preston – WSDOT

2019 County Safety Program call for projects is open and applications are due May 31. The Local Bridge Program call for projects is also open with a deadline of April 26. Please let local programs know if your agency is going apply for Emergency Declarations funds. It's important local programs is involved from the start for timely processing.

Roger Wright – Port of Pasco

It was noted at the last TAC-PAC joint meeting the Port of Benton PAC member mentioned the Yakima River Bridge 'tiles' replacement. The correct term should be bridge 'ties' that are being replaced. The Port has applied to for state funds to repair the Yakima River bridge deck which has been the same since the 1980s and the actual bridge dating back to 1949.

Paul Gonseth – WSDOT

The SR 240 Open House is next Thursday evening. There will be discussion on the Hanford commute among other topics. The M3 recommendations from the last meeting include Ben Franklin Transit looking into more vanpool and rideshare opportunities for commuters. The Seaport Alliance has contacted WSDOT about expanding service. Future inquires will be forwarded to BFCG.

Roscoe Slade – West Richland

38th is complete and Bombing Range Road bridge rehab is in design and scheduled for fall construction.

Kathleen Neuman – Franklin County

Taylor Flats bridge replacement has slowed down but still under construction and Juniper Dunes bids closed in February. The county will be going out for bids on safety projects soon.

Pete Rogalsky - Richland

JUB Engineers will lead the North/South Capacity Study and Downtown Active Transportation focused study. The Duportail contractor finished the irrigation canal work so it will be ready for the upcoming season.

7. NEXT MEETING: Joint TAC/PAC Meeting

April 4, 2019 – Ben Franklin Transit, Richland

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Matt Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

