



# BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1622 Terminal Dr. • Richland, WA 99352  
<http://bfcog.us>

Ph: (509)943-9185  
 Fax: (509)943-6756

## TRI-MATS TECHNICAL/POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING JOINT TAC - PAC Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2019

1. **CONVENE**

PAC Chair Skip Novakovich called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. at the Richland City Shop, 2700 Duportail Street.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Jurisdiction	PAC	TAC
Benton County		Matt Rasmussen
Franklin County	Brad Peck	
Ben Franklin Transit	Bob Koch	Keith Hall
City of Kennewick	Chuck Torelli (call in)	Cary Roe
City of Pasco	Ruben Alvarado	Mary Heather Ames (call in)
City of Richland		Pete Rogalsky
City of West Richland		Roscoe Slade
Port of Pasco		
Port of Benton	Bob Larson	
Port of Kennewick	Skip Novakovich	Larry Peterson
WSDOT - South Central	Troy Suing	Paul Gonseth (call in)
City of Prosser		
City of Connell		
City of Mesa		
City of Benton City	Dave Sandretto	Alan Rainey
City of Kahlotus		
WA State Transportation Commission		

BFCG Staff	Stephanie Seamans, Interim Executive Director
	Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Programs Manager
	Erin Braich, Transportation Planning Specialist II
	Tony Kalmbach, Transportation Planning Specialist II
	Geoff Wagner, Transportation Planning Specialist II

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Joint TAC-PAC MOTION was made by Bob Larson and SECONDED by Matt Rasmussen to approve the *January Joint TAC-PAC meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

Troy Suing from WSDOT South Central Region presented the *2018 Update WSDOT South Central Region Priorities for New Revenue and Preliminary PHASE I Columbia River Crossing Study – Tri-Cities – Level 1 Alternative Review*. The south central region's unfunded needs were compiled from WSDOT and the region's RTPO/MPO plans as well with local agencies. They are prioritized in groupings. Local needs are also on the list with categories like state of good repair, safety and preservation. There are estimated costs for each project. If the project has any prior WSDOT planning involvement it contained a higher 'Quality of Estimate' for 100% of the project.

Troy also handed out preliminary scenarios regarding the updated Columbia River Crossing Study efforts. In coordination with BFCG, WSDOT's consultant re-analyzed three alternatives in three scenarios using the BFCG model updated for the RTP. The study looked at three alternatives: North Richland/Sagemoor, Road 68/Edison and adding capacity to the Blue Bridge. The new model runs show area growth and is composed into three different scenarios. The first scenario is the build-out without the Red mountain Interchange or Keene Road extension projects. Scenario 2 is a full build-out with the Red Mountain Interchange and Keene Road extension projects. Scenario 3 is build-out with the Keene Road extension projects but not the Red Mountain Interchange. Scenario 2 for example shows about 16,000 crossings from the old model to 24,000 crossings with the updated model. It will be up to the local agencies in a regional setting to consider if they would like to look at other crossings alongside the three recent scenarios.

### 4. ACTION ITEMS

- A. 2019-2024 TIP Amendments (BFCG Amd.19-FEB) - Various  
TAC MOTION was made by Pete Rogalsky and SECONDED by Roscoe Slade to approve the *2019-2024 TIP Amendments (BFCG Amd.19-FEB)*. *The motion passed unanimously.*

PAC MOTION was made by Dave Sandretto and SECONDED Bob Larson to approve the *2019-2024 TIP Amendments (BFCG Amd.19-FEB)*. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair  
Roscoe Slade nominated TAC Vice-Chair Matt Rasmussen for TAC Chair and nominated Pete Rogalsky for TAC Vice-Chair. *The motion passed unanimously.*

## 5. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. 2018 Regional Traffic Count Report

Tony gave a presentation of the Regional Traffic Count Program results. 2018 data were collected mid-week in spring and fall and data collected in 2016 were collected in spring. Counters recorded vehicle volume, classification and speed at approximately 630 locations in Benton and Franklin Counties. In the packet is a sample of the many corridors analyzed. Moving forward the *Regional Traffic Count Program* would continue to be implemented every other year. The data is used to help with future transportation projects, grant funding and economic development. It was mentioned by the group that the traffic count program is a wise use of resources that benefits the region. Pete Rogalsky stated that it was a wise decision to pursue this program, and TAC Chairman Cary Roe agreed noting that the ability to add counts is beneficial.

### B. Growth Management Act (GMA) Certification Status

Erin mentioned BFCG's comprehensive plan certification process. Once jurisdiction's comprehensive plan is in the draft phase the transportation element of the plan is reviewed by BFCG and comments are noted and sent back to the jurisdiction. All jurisdictions in Benton County recently completed plan updates, and jurisdictions in Franklin County are underway.

### C. PAC Discussion

Skip brought up the issue of eliminating the PAC. He stated that it is a duplication of the BFCG Board. Patrick mentioned that the only document that addresses the TAC and PAC was from 1977 and allows discretion of the chair regarding the PAC meeting. Skip noted that the PAC meeting adds workload to the limited staff available.

It was noted that PAC members may attend TAC meetings for their information.

Most of the group was in favor but it was pointed out there should be more PAC members present for a vote on the issue. It was also pointed out the PAC needs to inform Cousins' restaurant of the potential elimination. Staff indicated they would do so. There was also concern with TAC members voting without their PAC representative present. Skip stated that the BFCG would vote on the issue the next day at their regular meeting.

### Recommendation to eliminate the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

Bob Koch made a MOTION to eliminate the PAC, Brad Peck SECONDED. *The motion passed with two 'no' votes Dave Sandretto and Bob Larson.*

## 6. MEMBER COMMENTS

### Ruben Alvarado – Pasco

Pasco is busy clearing roads of snow.

### Troy Suing – WSDOT-SC

I-90 is open, but the west side of the pass is being monitored for avalanche activity.

### Stephanie Seamans – BFCG

Thanks to staff for all their hard work and Patrick for freeing the Interim Executive to work on economic development and administration duties during BFCG's transition. BFCG wants to make sure we are here for our members and are working for them.

### Matt Rasmussen – Benton County

Moving a lot of snow. The county purchased a snow blower a year and a half ago and it has helped tremendously.

### Pete Rogalsky - Richland

Richland has received two proposals from consultants for a study of north/south SR 240 travel and downtown street network design study.

### Larry Peterson – Port of Kennewick

The port opens Vista Field bids at the end of the month. We'll keep the group updated on the progress and prices on the variety of infrastructure going in.

### Bob Larson – Port of Benton

The port plans on putting their 2019 projects in the paper to highlight what they've been busy with.

### Bob Koch – Ben Franklin Transit

Ben Franklin Transit is extending fixed route service starting March 11<sup>th</sup> to 10:00 p.m. Transit has also put a Demand Response Service together that started in January to help replace the now defunct taxi feeder service.

### Brad Peck – Franklin County

To reassure everyone, the vote to eliminate the PAC is just a recommendation. The discussion at the BFCG board meeting tomorrow is where your representative should be informed and present the official vote. Taylor Flats is closed for a bridge replacement. If the weather keeps up and there is a big thaw, it's possible there could be quite a few roads closed similar to a couple of years ago.

### Cary Roe - Kennewick

Clearing snow and ice like other cities. Once the bids are received for 27<sup>th</sup> avenue and the weather clears up work will start with 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kennewick Avenue to follow.

Skip Novakovich - Port of Kennewick

Skip and Mayor Britain testified before a legislative committee on Bill 5564 (Building Business Ecosystems Act) and it went favorably moving from the Senate Financial Institutions, Economic and Trade Committee into the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

TAC – March 7 – 11:00 a.m. Richland City Shop, 2700 Duportail Street Room 110

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

PAC Chair Skip Novakovich adjourned the meeting at 7:55 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Geoff Wagner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Novakovich", is written over a horizontal line.

Skip Novakovich, Chair PAC