

Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) Meeting Minutes

Nov 18, 2008 7-9p, Silverdale Community Center

TPAC members - Ann Erickson, Ralph Marsh, Bill Bryan, Shane Phillips, Gary Anderson, Andrea Archer, Tom Curley, Ray Pardo, Jay Spady, Gary Lindsey, Linda Berry-Maraist, Annie Humiston,
Citizens at Large – Margie Baran
Kitsap County Staff – Jim Rogers, Greg Cioc, Jeff Shea

The following documents were handed out at the meeting:

- September 16th, Meeting Minutes
- Transportation Project Evaluation System
- TIP Project Selection Timeline
- Tier 2 – TIP Project Ranking Spreadsheet
- Land Use & Climate Change Advisory Committee Recommendations
- Washington State DOT, Kitsap County Projects 2008 – 2010
- Kitsap County Non-motorized Plan Update, Agenda #1, Nov 14th 2008

Welcome

Jim Rogers welcomed the committee members. Tom Curley, representing the Suquamish Tribe, joins the committee tonight. Members reviewed and adopted minutes from the September 16th meeting. Meeting location and schedule was discussed, and all present agreed that keeping the same location and schedule (every third Tuesday) for next year would be acceptable. Jim explained that due to reduced staffing, the level of service scenario modeling continues to be delayed. In the interim, we will continue TPAC meetings, addressing other issues previously deemed important to the committee. Since we are only meeting every other month we will continue to discuss major topics between meetings via email, phone...etc.

Land Use and Climate Change

A short discussion about the policy and funding recommendations put forward by the Land Use & Climate Change Committee (a statewide committee). Recommendations are to be forwarded to the Governor and State Legislature by December 1st. New legislation and updates to the Growth Management Act (GMA) regarding VMT, multi-modal level of service, vehicle emissions and climate change is likely this session, and committee members are encouraged to watch closely, as any new legislation could affect the way we plan for transportation locally. More information on this can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/growthmgt.htm>

WSDOT Highway and Ferry Projects Update

Greg Cioc gave a summary of projects being conducted on State Highways within Kitsap County. Projects with current and near term impacts are the Burley-Ollala Interchange on Hwy 16, the SR 304 Bremerton Tunnel, and the two-week closure of SR 305 near Poulsbo next summer. Project details were provided in the handout.

Non-motorized Planning

Staff has decided that the new plan will be produced in-house, rather than by consultant. Greg Cioc presented a draft outline of the non-motorized plan to be undertaken in 2009. Staff is currently working with the Department of Community Development and the Parks Department to ensure that all interested parties are included and are able to participate in the development of the plan. The non-motorized sub-committee will be getting together again probably just after the first of the year. Stay tuned for a date.

Ray Pardo raised concerns that perhaps the term “non-motorized” should be changed because it conflicts with the use of electric wheelchairs, scooters and possibly other modes of transportation that would be expected on trails or other pedestrian/bicycle facilities. At very least “non-motorized” needs to be well defined.

Bridges to Everywhere

Committee member, Ralph Marsh, presented a proposal for several additional bridges in Kitsap County in order to improve travel time, reduce traffic congestion and provide travel options in locations where currently only one route exists. The use of tolls, such as those being implemented on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, was discussed as a viable method of paying for the new bridges without raising taxes.

Transportation Improvement Program

Jim Rogers briefly described the counties Transportation Project Evaluation System to the group, who had reviewed it prior to the meeting, and then solicited comments. Overall the system was well received, however several members felt that with the ever increasing push to reduce vehicle miles traveled and vehicle emissions, that bicycle and pedestrian projects should be given higher priority. This idea may gain even more traction during the upcoming legislative session in which new legislation and updates to the Growth Management Act (GMA) regarding VMT, multi-modal level of service, vehicle emissions and climate change is likely. Again, keep a watch on Olympia this legislative session. There is potential for some major game changing legislation.

It was also suggested by a few committee members, that bicycle and pedestrian projects, particularly those in close proximity to schools, be given safety points in order to help promote the project.

Public Comment

Margie Baran asked questions regarding the ability for public participation in the project selection process. Jim explained that the public has input from the very beginning of the project selection and review process, and again at the end of the process when it goes to a public meeting prior to adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

Meeting Adjourned - 9:00 PM

Next meeting: January 20th, 2009