

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
PIERCE COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL
MARCH 10, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Lonergan, Chair
James Rackley
Larry Wilcox
Tom Smallwood
Scott Malkuch
Derek Young
Doug Richardson
Pad Finnigan
Bob Whalen, (Katrina Asay)
Cheryl Temple
Pat McCarthy
Roger Bush
Tim Farrell
Richard Marzano
John Knutsen
Rick Hansen
Ray Bourne
Ron Lucas
Peggy Levesque
Matthew Richardson, Vice Chair
Marilyn Strickland
Jean Brooks, (Debbie Klosowski)
Linda Bird
Janet Kepka

City of Tacoma
City of Bonney Lake
City of DuPont
Town of Eatonville
City of Edgewood
City of Gig Harbor
City of Lakewood
City of Lakewood
City of Milton
City of Orting
Pierce County Executive
Pierce County Council
Pierce County Council
Port of Tacoma
City of Puyallup
City of Puyallup
City of Roy
Town of Steilacoom
Town of South Prairie
City of Sumner
City of Tacoma
City of University Place
City of University Place
Town of Wilkeson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gene Cerino
Sandra Ramsey
Richie Morgan
Butch Brooks
Kathy McVay
Helen McGovern
Gary Hulsey
Joyce McDonald
Bill Baarsma
Vacant

City of Auburn
City of Buckley
Town of Carbonado
City of Fife
City of Fircrest
City of Lakewood
City of Pacific
Pierce County Council
City of Tacoma
Town of Ruston

Non-members present:

Dave Enslow, City of Sumner
Toby Rickman, Pierce County
Mark Hoppen, City of Puyallup

Bill McDonald, City of DuPont
Randy Harrison, Pierce County
Steve Sugg, City of University Place

Dan Soderlind, City of Tacoma
 Mark Bethune, City of Orting
 Karen Richter, PSRC
 Ike Nwankwo, CTED
 Tara Mattina, Port of Tacoma
 Bill Pugh, City of Sumner
 Devin Wolf, Parametrix/Orting
 Molly Lee, Citizen of Poulsbo
 Bud Rehberg, Citizen
 Hugh Taylor, Pierce County

Kurtis Kingsolver, City of Tacoma
 Jon Howe, City of Lakewood
 Nick Bond, Town of Eatonville
 Dan Grigsby, City of Bonney Lake
 Allison Smith, Port of Tacoma
 John Doan, City of Sumner
 Ed Taylor, Operating Engineers
 John Larson, Tacoma Weekly
 Charles Homes, Citizen, Bonney Lake
 Sean Gaffney, Pierce County

Mike Lonergan, Chair of the PCRC, called the special meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present. He provided opening comments explaining why it was necessary to hold the meeting and announced Karen Richter, PSRC, was in attendance to provide technical/procedural information if needed. He requested the presenters comment on the criteria requirements of this stimulus funding package.

RPEC Stimulus Funding Formal Recommendation

Don Wickstrom, TCC Vice Chair, provided a background of how the TCC came to their recommendation for funding. All projects are required to be out to bid by July 8th. The top four will be forwarded to PSRC.

The projects were presented in the following order:

1.	Orting	SR 162 Rechannelization	\$420,000
2.	Puyallup	Shaw Rd Extension Phase 3	\$2,000,000
3.	Pierce County	Orville Rd. E.	\$425,000
4.	Port of Tacoma	Lincoln Avenue Grade Separation	\$14,455,000
5.	University Place	Economic/Transit Oriented Revitalization Project	\$10,000,000
6.	Tacoma	Portland Ave. Overlay	\$1,500,000
7.	Sumner	Traffic/Fryar Ave. and Main Street Intersection (Main Street to Puyallup St.)	\$1,438,000
8.	Eatonville	Rural Town Center & Corridor Program	\$960,000
9.	Lakewood	Lakewood Traffic Signal Upgrade/ITS -Phase 1	\$1,500,000

1. Orting, SR 162 Rechannelization, \$420,000

Devin Wolf, Consultant, Parametrix, presented the Orting project. The project will enhance the downtown corridor and increase traffic flow. Other benefits are: it is ready-to-go; will stimulate jobs in the area; it is low impact; and will provide additional pedestrian safety. The city has secured \$750,000 and has money to contribute but is lacking \$420,000 to complete the project. Mayor Cheryl Temple offered additional information regarding how important this project is to the region. The population is growing around the area and it would provide economic development for the city. She emphasized the project has a true \$420,000 deficit and if funded, the project will be completed by fall 2009.

2. Puyallup, Shaw Rd. Extension Phase III, \$2,000,000

Mark Hoppen, Public Works Director, City of Puyallup, presented the Shaw Road Extension project. It is the third phase of the project and this funding request completes this road corridor. They are projecting this project will increase jobs by 3,000 in the future. The timeline for completion is 2010 and the project was ready to go out to bid last week. The TCC rated the project with 98 points.

3. Pierce County, Orville Rd E., \$425,000

Toby Rickman, Public Works Deputy Director, Pierce County, presented the Orville Road project. It is a paving project and does not require ROW acquisition. Orville Road serves as the primary road for gravel from the rock quarry and is a corridor for freight movement. The project came in after the TCC rated projects due to the initial speculation of how "shovel ready" was defined. The criteria was changed to 120 days from the original 90 days. After determining the project was available for stimulus funding, it was presented to RPEC where it was recommended to the Executive Board.

4. Port of Tacoma, Lincoln Avenue Grade Separation, \$14,455,000

Richard Marzano, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma, presented the project. He stated the TCC scored the project with 100 points. The project would create over 450 construction jobs, create 2,700 future jobs, and has all NEPA/SEPA completed. The Port would not be able to construct the project without the funding. \$15,808,000 is the amount needed to complete the project and the Port will come up with the balance needed to complete the project.

Linda Bird questioned the amount needed for the project and why the numbers have changed since January. Cheryl Temple questioned if they had any funding plans for this project. Richard Marzano felt all the Port projects have been put on hold in order to fund this project.

Ron Lucas asked the Port if they will be asking for funding regionally if they received the stimulus funding. Richard Marzano stated the Port will not seek other funding if the stimulus money funds this project.

James Rackley stated the Port has many other alternatives to receive funding compared to cities/towns who do not have as many options.

John Knutsen expressed how important the Port is to our region.

5. University Place, Transit Oriented Revitalization Project, \$3,114,000

Steve Sugg, Deputy City Manager, City of University Place, presented the transit oriented project. It is a continuation of a project started back in 2002. The money would complete the transit center/garage and construct the library that will be placed on top of the transit center. It meets all eligibility requirements and the city will not be able to complete the project without the funding. This project was removed from the original recommended list at the RPEC meeting on February 27th.

6. Tacoma, Portland Ave. Overlay, \$1,500,000

Dan Soderlind, Public Works Division Manager, City of Tacoma presented the project which is an asphalt overlay in a major arterial in Tacoma which leads to the Port. The city has completed the environmental; the project will create jobs; and is 90 percent complete. He expressed the importance of the project by increasing the flow of traffic for many residents, as well as the Port of Tacoma.

7. Sumner, Traffic/Fryar Ave. and Main Street Intersection (Main Street to Puyallup St.) \$1,438,000

Bill Pugh, Public Works Director, City of Sumner, presented the project and stated it is about linkages. The project would provide access to downtown, the Sounder Station, and serve as a connection to the Port of Tacoma. It will also increase traffic flow, improve safety, enhance the pavement ride, increase bike lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks. It is a ready-to-go project with the exception of the ROW acquisition which is held up by a few appraisals resulting in a lower score. The route is the only remaining truck route through the City of Sumner and would provide better access to the Port of Tacoma.

8. Eatonville, Rural Town Center & Corridor Program, \$960,000

Tom Smallwood, Mayor, Town of Eatonville, provided the project overview. He stated the NEPA/SEPA is nearly finished; they are waiting for the certification. The ROW, bid, and plans are complete. It is a ready-to-go project with completion estimated in 6-9 months and is a part of the Town's revitalization plan. The project will serve as the Town's center for local events. The project's original request was \$960,000, but it could be lowered to \$825,000.

Mike Lonergan read a portion of a comment letter provided by the City of Buckley's Mayor, Pat Johnson, supporting the Eatonville project.

Matt Richardson noted the importance of Mayor Johnson's opinion.

9. Lakewood, Lakewood Traffic Signal Upgrade/ITS, - Phase 1, \$1,500,000

Jon Howe, Engineer Technician, City of Lakewood, presented the project. The project would increase traffic flow, complete traffic and communication upgrades, and it meets the PSRC requirements. Currently the city does not have federal funding for this project.

The project presentations ended.

Pat McCarthy expressed she does not want to risk losing the funding that has been allocated to Pierce County by the RPEC recommendations. She stated she would like to removed Pierce County from the funding recommendation and provide Eatonville the opportunity to receive the funding amount originally allocated to Pierce County's project, as well as reduce the Port's funding amount by \$400,000, providing Eatonville the funds needed for its project.

Motion: (Pat McCarthy, Tim Farrell, second) To amend the RPEC recommendation by removing Pierce County's \$425,000 Orville Road project and reducing the Port of Tacoma's project amount by \$400,000; combine these amounts to reinstate and fund

Eatonville's Rural Town Center and Corridor Program making the final recommendation as:

Orting, SR 162 Rechannelization, \$420,000; Puyallup, Shaw Rd. Extension Phase III, \$2,000,000; Port of Tacoma, Lincoln Ave. Grade Separation, \$15,408,000; and Eatonville, Rural Town Center and Corridor Program, \$825,000.

The group proceeded with the following discussion.

There were concerns raised by the Council. Scott Malkuch expressed how he felt this limits the increase in jobs. Jean Brooks felt her project was scored at 98 points and questioned why it was not recommended over Eatonville. Derek Young was concerned that the Port should not be using up so much of the funding. They have several other funding options that jurisdictions do not.

Linda Bird expressed her concern with the motion and how it changes the RPEC recommendation. For two months there was a lot of time and energy put forth coming up with the TCC's recommendation and everything changed at the RPEC meeting. Now they are changing the recommendation again. She felt they are compromising the integrity of a system that has been used for years. She questioned how the Port stated they could not lower the funding request but the motion lowers the amount.

She provided a proposal and stated she would like to make a motion to amend the original motion to limit the amount any single project could receive to 33 percent in funds and allowing all other projects to receive funding as well. Jean Brooks, second.

She felt this would create a balanced spread of funds across the County and felt the Port has other means to get funding.

The Chair ruled the motion was not appropriate and the question was called for and the original motion passed.

The Vote:

Yes: 13, No: 11, Motion passed

The original motion passed and no further motions were presented.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.