

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
PIERCE COUNTY REGIONAL COUNCIL
MARCH 19, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Richardson, Vice Chair
Gene Cerino
Pat Johnson
Larry Wilcox
Bobbi Allison, Tom Smallwood
Scott Malkuch
Barry Johnson
Helen McGovern
Pad Finnigan
Bob Whalen
Joe Pestinger
Pat McCarthy
John Knutsen
Rick Hansen
Bill Baarsma
Linda Bird

City of Sumner
City of Auburn
City of Buckley
City of DuPont
Town of Eatonville
City of Edgewood
City of Fife
City of Lakewood
City of Lakewood
City of Milton
City of Orting
Pierce County Executive
City of Puyallup
City of Puyallup
City of Tacoma
City of University Place

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Lonergan, Chair
James Rackley
Richie Morgan
Kathy McVay
Derek Young
Gary Hulsey
Joyce McDonald
Roger Bush
Tim Farrell
Clare Petrich
Ray Bourne
Vacant
Peggy Levesque
Ron Lucas
Marilyn Strickland
Jean Brooks
Janet Kepka

City of Tacoma
City of Bonney Lake
Town of Carbonado
City of Fircrest
City of Gig Harbor
City of Pacific
Pierce County Council
Pierce County Council
Pierce County Council
Port of Tacoma
City of Roy
Town of Ruston
Town of South Prairie
Town of Steilacoom
City of Tacoma
City of University Place
Town of Wilkeson

Non-members present:

Don Wickstrom, TCC Vice Chair
Ryan Windish, GMCC Chair
Ian Munce, GMCC Vice Chair
Sean Gaffney, Pierce County
Bud Rehberg, Citizen

Pat O'Neill, TCC Chair
Dana Brown, City of Tacoma
Christine Mudgett, Pierce County
Ike Nwankwo, CTED
Jim Halmo, Citizen

Matthew Richardson, Vice Chair of the PCRC, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present. He provided opening comments explaining how the presentations would proceed for the evening.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: (Scott Malkuch, Bobbi Allison, second) - To approve the meeting minutes from 01/15/09 and 02/19/09. The motion passed unanimously.

2009 Budget Correction

Due to a clerical error, the 2009 budget adopted at the Annual General Assembly had the incorrect population numbers and dues amounts for jurisdictions.

Motion: (Bobbi Allison, Rick Hansen, second) - To approve the Corrected 2009 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

GMCC Report

Ryan Windish, GMCC Chair, provided a brief report. The GMCC formed subcommittees to work on the Population/Housing Allocation Procedures and the WAC updates. At the 2/26/09 meeting they also discussed House Bill 1490.

2009 Regional Transportation Project Presentations/Selection

Don Wickstrom, TCC Vice Chair, provided a background of how the TCC came to their recommendation for funding. He mentioned the April meeting will also include the discussion and approval of a contingency list for the stimulus funding if additional funding is available in the future.

Dana Brown reviewed the scoring criteria for the projects. He noted the scoring consists of several categories the scoring consists of and referred to the 2009 STP and CMAQ Regional Project Evaluation Criteria document.

There was a discussion regarding how the PCRC members should evaluate the projects. It was pointed out that staff has already evaluated and ranked the projects and members should take that into consideration.

Matthew Richardson suggested the following ground rules. He will keep a list as a speaking cue to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be heard. All proposals will be heard first before any motions are made. After all the proposals are heard then motions will be accepted. A motion needs to have a first and second, and requires two-thirds vote. He also suggested if a special meeting is necessary in the future, we should consider meeting on a Saturday or Sunday if that would be the best way to meet a quorum and allow for the best participation of members.

Motion: (Bobbi Allison, Pat McCarthy, second) - To limit the presentations to three minutes. The motion passed 15-1 (Nay-Rick Hansen).

The projects were presented in the following order (top six forwarded to the PSRC):

1.	Pierce County	Canyon Rd. E. – 172 St E to 160 St. E.	\$5,000,000
2.	Pierce Transit	Pacific Ave. Corridor Transit Signal Priority	\$2,800,000
3.	Tacoma	Puyallup River Bridge F16A & F16B	\$5-6,000,000
4.	Fife	Phase II of 70th / Valley Corridor Project	\$14,000,000
5.	Puyallup	Meridian / SR 161 ITS Improvements	\$1,800,000 +300K Match
6.	Sound Transit	Lakewood-Tacoma Commuter Rail	\$10,000,000
7.	Tacoma	Stadium Way	\$3,700,000
8.	Tacoma	South Tacoma Way from S. 38th to S. 80th	\$4,288,000
9.	Pacific	Stewart Rd. Corridor Widening Project - SR 167 to BNSF Overcrossing	\$3,000,000
10.	Orting	Whitehawk Blvd. Extension – SR 167 to Calistoga Street W.	\$3,400,000
11.	Pierce County	Bridge #19204-H/70 Ave. E.	\$7,000,000
12.	Edgewood	Interurban Trail: current terminus to Military Road	\$1,000,000
13.	Pierce County	Canyon Rd. E.-Northerly Extension - Pioneer Wy. E. to 52nd St. E./62 Ave. E.	\$6,000,000

1. Pierce County, Canyon Rd. E. – 172 St E to 160 St. E., \$5-8,000,000

Chris Mudgett presented the STP project. She stated it was ranked the number one economic development project in the Puget Sound area out of the eleven projects. It is a widening project with roadside improvements. It is a competitive regional project and the improvements will benefit the Frederickson area.

2. Pierce Transit, Pacific Ave. Corridor Transit Signal Priority, \$2,800,000

Tina Lee presented the CMAQ project. It will improve the downtown corridor area of Tacoma. Currently, 24, 000 – 39,000 vehicles travel on the corridor. The transit signal project will alleviate the congestion and enhance the bus flow. As an additional benefit, vehicles won't idle as much saving 165 thousand gallons of gas a year and reducing carbon monoxide gases. The minimum needed is 2.8 million.

3. Tacoma, Puyallup River Bridge F16A & F16B, \$5-6,000,000

Dan Soderlind presented the STP project. The minimum amount needed is six million dollars to complete the project. The rest of the funds would be sought out through other means. Daily traffic is 16,500 cars and a large percentage is trucks. The bridge rated extremely poor in a safety rating (20 out of 100). Bill Baarsma stated he felt this project is significant because we saw the effects of an unsafe bridge when one collapsed in Minneapolis.

Unfortunately, the stimulus funding did not apply due to the shovel-ready requirement.

4. Fife, Phase II of 70th / Valley Corridor Project, Requesting \$8,000,000.

Russ Blount presented the STP project. If funded, the second phase of the project will be completed, which will widen 70th Avenue from a two-lane road to a five-lane road. There is currently extreme congestion at this particular arterial. Eight million dollars is needed to build and finish the project; four million would assist significantly in getting the project started.

5. Puyallup, Meridian / SR 161 ITS Improvements, \$1,800,000 +300k City Match

Colleen Harris presented the CMAQ project which is a four-mile segment of the corridor. A minimum of 1.8 million dollars is needed which will complete the project. She stated this project could score 100 points in the competition.

6. Sound Transit, Lakewood-Tacoma Commuter Rail, \$10,000,000

Erick Beckman presented the CMAQ project. The project will construct 1.2 miles of new passenger rail between D Street and M Street in downtown Tacoma. This project needs to be completed before the Sounder commuter rail can be expanded from Tacoma to Lakewood. 8 million is the minimum amount needed, but they'll take any amount that can be given.

7. Tacoma, Stadium Way, \$3,100,000

Dan Seabrants presented the STP project. Currently, there is not adequate storm drainage. Stadium Way has steep slopes and retaining walls need to be repaired. Sound Transit also has a connection in the project area which has a poor sidewalk and needs new curbs and gutters. A minimum of 3.1 million dollars is needed to get the additional funding needed to complete the project. This project falls into the regional project category because it falls in a regional growth center. There are long-term plans for the business area as several revitalization projects are occurring.

8. Tacoma, South Tacoma Way from S. 38th to S. 80th, \$4,288,000

Dana Brown presented the STP project. There are 19,000 employees in the area. Pierce Transit's route carries 260,000 passengers a year and only three stops have covered areas or shelters. There are 17,000 cars a day on this arterial. This project also supports non-motorized transit. The Sounder station design will have a kiss and go area to drop off into the pedestrian trail. It is consistent with the regional growth criteria. The minimum amount needed is 4.3 million dollars.

9. Pacific, Stewart Rd. Corridor Widening Project SR 167 to BNSF Overcrossing, \$3,000,000

There was no one in attendance to present the project.

10. Orting, Whitehawk Blvd. Extension – SR 167 to Calistoga Street W., \$3,400,000

This project was removed due to the scoring predictions by staff.

11. Pierce County, Bridge (Melroy Bridge) #19204-H/70 Ave. E., \$7,000,000

Chris Mudgett presented the STP project which will build a new bridge. The current bridge will be removed after the new bridge is built. The requested funding will complete the ROW acquisition and design of the bridge allowing the project to be shovel-ready if funding should become available in the future.

12. Edgewood, Interurban Trail: Current Terminus to Military Road, \$1,000,000

Scott Malkuch presented the project. This project would open up the interurban access for Fife-Milton-Edgewood. It is a critical non-motorized link from the north valley to the interurban trail.

13. Pierce County, Canyon Rd. E.-Northerly Extension - Pioneer Way E. to 52nd St. E./62 Ave. E., \$6,000,000

Chris Mudgett presented the STP project. The project would provide a new arterial extension of Canyon Road that will connect with 70th Avenue East in Fife and, ultimately, with the planned extension of SR 167. It would create a direct link between Frederickson and the Port of Tacoma.

Discussion:

John Knutsen expressed his concerns with the #2 project. He felt a bus gaining a control of intersections shouldn't trump other projects. He felt the project was too expensive and thought it may cause concerns with drivers due to the buses having the control.

The Pierce Transit representative stated this is not a new type of project. There is another area that has been around since 2005 and has heard zero complaints.

Larry Wilcox questioned what the goal of the evening was. He felt this meeting was a waste of time because the group was not allowed to score the projects themselves and make a recommendation. He was concerned that their only role was to make a formal recommendation.

After several PCRC members were questioning the scoring criteria and ranking process, Dana Brown attempted to clarify the questions. He stated each application was allowed to compete in one of the three categories. The Regional Council states they cannot compete against each other in the categories. There are no additional benefits for a project by falling into all three categories. The TCC's recommendation is based on how it would score at the regional level.

Linda Bird stated the PCRC should respect the work the TCC has done. She trusts their rankings and felt this group's recommendation should reflect the TCC's work. She would like to proceed with the recommended list from the TCC.

Bill Baarsma stated he appreciated the TCC's scoring recommendation and was pleased with the list presented to the group. He stated his faith in the professionals who worked on the review and ranked the projects. He agreed with Linda Bird and would like to go forward with the TCC's recommendations. He felt the expertise used to rank the projects far exceeds this group's recommendation.

Barry Johnson echoed Bill Baarsma and Linda Bird's statements.

John Knutsen stated he supports the list that was in front of them and would like to move the list forward.

Matt Richardson stated the list was a very strong guide but he doesn't always agree with staff recommendations and wanted to make sure the group recommended high scoring projects.

Gene Cerino stated the PCRC members are a bunch of amateurs and the group should consider the professional's recommendation. He supported the TCC's recommendation.

Pat Johnson stated it was a matter of trust when it comes to staff. She trusts her staff and recommends they go forward with the TCC's recommendation. If they cannot trust the staff that works for them, they should eliminate them.

Motion: (Linda Bird, Pat Johnson, second) - To recommend the 2009 Regional Transportation Funding project list provided by the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC). The motion passed 12-2. (Matt Richardson and Larry Wilcox - Nays)

Committee Reports/Announcements

Linda Bird stated the recommendation from the prior meeting went to PSRC and indicated she voted in favor of it.

Matt Richardson explained his opposition of House Bill 1490 and Senate Bill 5687. He provided an email he sent to the Governor's office, along with the response.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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