

## MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Policy Board Meeting  
May 6, 2010  
Post Falls City Council Chambers, City Hall, First Floor  
Post Falls, Idaho

### Board Members in Attendance:

Jimmie Dorsey, Chair	East Side Highway District
Clay Larkin, Vice Chair	City of Post Falls
Damon Allen	Idaho Transportation Department
Richard Panabaker	City of Hayden
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Lynn Humphreys	Post Falls Highway District
Al Hassell	City of Coeur d'Alene
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Marv Lekstrum	Lakes Highway District
Todd Tondee	Kootenai County

### Board Members Absent:

Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe
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### Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Executive Director  
Donna Lively, Administrative Secretary

### **1. Call to Order.**

The meeting of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board was called to order by Chair, Jimmie Dorsey at 1:30 pm.

### **2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes.**

**Mr. Vic Holmes made a motion to approve the April 1, 2010 KMPO Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Richard Panabaker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **3. Public Comments**

Mobility Manager, Mr. Clif Warren, introduced Ms. Rinda Mitchell, Grants Contract Management Supervisor from ITD's Public Transportation Division. Ms. Mitchell updated the Board on statewide public transportation issues including the transitioning of planning to the Community Transportation Association of Idaho (CTAI).

She reported that a new rideshare web site, [www.RideshareOnline.com](http://www.RideshareOnline.com), has been launched making carpool matching easier for Idahoans. Also, a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Call for Projects is anticipated in June.

#### **4. KCATT Recommendations.**

##### **a. STP Call for Projects Recommendation – Kevin Jump**

Mr. Kevin Jump reported that at their April 27, 2010 meeting, KCATT reviewed a prioritized list of STP projects and recommended the following for KMPO adoption: 1) the City of Coeur d'Alene's Government Way – Hanley to Prairie project, 2) the City of Hayden Lake's Miles Avenue Reconstruction project, 2) City of Post Fall's Seltice Congestion Mitigation project, and 3) the City of Hayden's Ramsey Road Extension.

He stated that the STP application form and evaluation criteria were developed in coordination with the KCATT subcommittee. The deadline for applications for the Call was Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the applications were scored on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> by KMPO staff.

Mr. Richard Panabaker stated that he was asked by the City of Hayden to emphasize the importance of the Ramsey Road Extension project over the Miles Avenue Reconstruction project. Mr. Jump noted that KMPO staff conducted the project scoring. Mr. Miles explained that each project is scored on its own merit. Since the Ramsey Road Extension project is in the development stage it may not have scored as high as projects that are closer to the construction stage. Having the project list approved, however, provides latitude in selecting projects for funding based on the amount of funding available.

**Mr. Al Hassell made a motion to approve the 2011 STP Prioritized Project List as presented. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion for discussion purposes.**

Mr. Miles asked for clarification as to whether the motion allows for projects to be selected based on the amount of funding available or strictly in the order they are in. Mr. Hassell amended his motion as follows:

**Mr. Al Hassell made a motion to approve the 2011 STP Prioritized Project List as presented but with latitude to select projects based on the amount of funding that becomes available. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Miles explained that rural projects were also selected and prioritized in anticipation that projects currently outside the federally designated urbanized area will later fall within the urbanized area based on the 2010 Census.

#### **5. Administrative Matters – Glenn Miles**

#### **a. KMPO General March 2010 Expenses & Financial Report**

Mr. Miles stated that there were no major items on the March 2010 Expenses and Financial Report requiring a detailed explanation but that he would entertain questions if needed. He noted that because KMPO operates on a cost reimbursable basis through ITD, the Federal Highway Administration, and a consolidated grant with Federal Transit, SRTC has been floating KMPO, which is why expenditures are greater than receivables.

**Mr. Vic Holmes made a motion to approve the KMPO Vouchers payment for March 2010 in the amount of \$19,130.18. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Panabaker and unanimously approved.**

#### **6. Public Transportation**

##### **a. Citylink Status Report – Alan Eirls**

Mr. Alan Eirls reported that ridership dropped by 3,300 riders from the previous month, probably due to the decrease in student ridership because of spring break and because there was one less day in the month of April.

He reported that an accident involving a deer occurred with Bus #59. Also, until a month ago, Citylink experienced difficulties in trying to meet their 2009 national transit database reporting requirements. All data, with the exception of their financials, has since been reported.

Mr. Larkin asked what Citylink does with the old buses that are replaced. Mr. Eirls stated that currently the old buses are used as reserves during maintenance cycles on the newer buses.

##### **b. KATS Status Report – Helen Stephens**

Mr. John Austin provided the KATS report on behalf of Ms. Stephens who had to leave the meeting early. He noted that ridership was down for the month and that KATS was also operating with only one vehicle.

##### **c. ARRA Public Transportation Projects Update – John Austin**

Mr. Austin reported that the 7 smaller buses that support the fixed routes (3 for KATS, 3 for the hospital, and 1 for the Tribe) are in the process of being delivered. Three of the 7 larger buses are ready for County Commissioner approval. Mr. Todd Tondee asked how long it will take for the larger buses to be delivered once they are ordered. Mr. Alan Eirls stated that on average it takes 6 months depending on the manufacturer.

##### **d. Public Transportation Roundtable Update – Pearl Bouchard**

Mr. Clif Warren provided the Public Transportation Roundtable update in lieu of Ms. Bouchard. He stated that the key item at the last meeting was the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's announcement of having to look at reducing their Citylink funding match. A Public Transportation Roundtable subcommittee will meet on May 19 to consider solutions. Mr. Al Hassell commented that by the time this is done, jurisdictions will have already established their budgets for next year. Mr. Miles noted that the concern is to address future funding issues.

**e. Financial Report – John Austin**

Mr. Austin reported that the federal appropriation is still pending in Congress; however, the current year is covered due to prior year carry over funds.

**f. Mobility Manager's Report – Clif Warren**

Mr. Warren reported that the Dover 5311 grant request was withdrawn and is being resubmitted as a request for 5316 funds in order to prevent cuts to North Idaho Community Express (NICE) rural services in Kootenai, Bonner, and Shoshone Counties.

Greyhound reinstated services to Shoshone County out of either Wallace or Kellogg. The Silver Valley EDC will be recommending their preference for the exact location.

Mr. Warren stated that the CTAI workshop he attended on April 27-28, 2010 along with Chairman Dorsey and Mr. Ryan Stewart featured Mr. David Bennion, Chairman of Public Transportation Subcommittee of the Governor's Task Force for Modernizing Transportation Funding. The Subcommittee will report to the full task force on the current challenges, strategies, and goals of the public transportation system in Idaho. Mr. Bennion emphasized that the legislature will be looking for responsible planning, cooperation, and operations by the transit community as a whole in order for them to make changes to the funding process.

Mr. Warren was asked to update the Board on the City of Harrison's request for public transportation options. Mr. Warren responded that he has not heard back from the City of Harrison, but that he is proposing a vanpool as a solution.

Mr. Warren was asked whether the increase in gas prices has resulted in increased public transportation ridership to which he responded that it does. Mr. Alan Eirls concurred and noted that the increase in ridership tends to remain constant irrespective of gas price fluctuations.

Mr. Dorsey noted that he is aware of some communities using school buses after hours as a means of public transit.

**g. RPTA Recommendation Update – Ryan Stewart**

Mr. Glenn Miles stated that Mr. Austin coordinated a meeting with Coeur d'Alene Tribe representatives to discuss the creation of a RPTA. While the Tribe supports the creation of a RPTA, they are concerned with cost containment and the impact on rural routes. The Tribe will prepare a letter to the KMPO Board and County Commissioners outlining their position on the creation of a RPTA, which will include their desire to have the rural services they've established maintained. Mr. Austin noted that the Tribe is contributing almost \$1 million to Citylink though the federal match requirement is only approximately \$400,000. Mr. Miles added that the Tribe stated it will make a conscientious effort to fill their seat on the KMPO Board and will meet next week to address the issue.

## **7. Director's Report – Glenn Miles**

Mr. Glenn Miles reported that he was in Washington D.C. last week with members from the Regional Chamber Alliance to present a unified agenda on what is important to this region. He encouraged Board members to become involved in the process due to the opportunity it provides to interface and network with cabinet agency heads, congressional delegates, and staffers and to hear what is anticipated for the region.

He noted that the upcoming November elections are impacting the productivity of Congress. It is anticipated that no action will occur with the Transportation Authorization Bill until February of next year. Environment and Public Works will probably not see any action either until after the elections. The continuing resolution, however, was signed securing transportation funding for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Miles stated that Senator Dodd, Chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is retiring. While Senator Dodd supports urban mass transit, it is uncertain whether his successor, Senator Johnson from South Dakota, concurs, creating speculation as to whether or not any emphasis or funding will be directed towards urban mass transit.

Mr. Miles briefed the Board on the possibility of a \$300 million National Infrastructure and Investment Bill, a.k.a. TIGER II. Projects that are in the \$10 million range and are ready for construction are the most likely to receive funding.

Also, CTAI has advertised the Mobility Manager Position. Mr. Miles, Ms. Heather Wheeler, and Ms. Pearl Bouchard have been asked to review the applications and interview the applicants around the first week in June.

## **8. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

## **9. Board Member Items**

Mr. Damon Allan reported that ITD has commenced work on all bridges between the State line and Coeur d'Alene. The contract is for 30 days; however, they hope to have the work completed in 20. Traffic is down to one lane in both directions for approximately 6 miles.

ITD is hosting Transportation Leadership meetings; i.e., opportunities for ITD to meet and greet the public and provide updates on ITD construction projects, the STIP, provide additional information, and answer funding questions.

Mr. Allan introduced a Coeur d'Alene High school student who was doing a job shadow with ITD and there to learn about KMPO.

Mr. Clay Larkin asked for Board support for the Post Falls Beck Road Interchange project in order to increase economic development and serve a wider region.

**Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to have Mr. Glenn Miles draft a letter on behalf of the KMPO Board in support of the Post Falls Beck Road Interchange project for Chairman Dorsey's signature. Mr. Richard Panabaker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Larkin noted that local businesses have been waiting for 3 years for the interchange. Over 3,000 jobs are expected as a result of the build out. Mr. Lynn Humphreys asked what the timeline on the build out was. Mr. Larkin Clay responded that it was 8 to 14 years.

Mr. Richard Panabaker reported that construction is being completed on Lancaster Road and Highway 95. Also, the Ramsey Road Extension project will enable the City of Hayden to acquire more business from airport traffic.

Mr. James Mangan stated that a report outlining the status of stimulus projects by state and territory revealed that the State of Idaho is tied with Puerto Rico in having no stimulus projects completed. He noted that the Worley Highway District worked hard at obtaining some of those funds and expressed frustration with the whole process.

Mr. Miles stated that at the last Urban Balancing Committee Meeting, funding was secured for the City of Coeur d'Alene's Dalton to Hanley project as well as the Lancaster Road resurfacing project from US 95 to Huetter.

## **10. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

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Donna Lively, Recording Secretary