

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
April 6, 2006
Idaho Transportation Department District 1 Headquarters
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Board Members in Attendance:

Lynn Humphreys, Chair	Post Falls Highway District
Clay Larkin, Vice-Chair	City of Post Falls
Dixie Reid	City of Coeur d'Alene
Mark Soderling	Lakes Highway District
Dick Edinger	East Side Highway District
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Scott Stokes	ITD District 1 Assistant Engineer
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
Gus Johnson	Kootenai County

Board Members Absent:

Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe
-------------	---------------------

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Executive Director
Jenny Wash, Administrative Clerk

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Dixie Reid made a motion to approve the March 2, 2006 meeting minutes. Mr. Gus Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments.

No public comments.

4. Administrative Matters – Glenn Miles

a) KMPO Vouchers – February 2006

Mr. Dick Edinger made a motion to approve the payment of the February 2006 KMPO Vouchers in the amount of \$8,457.71. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Soderling and unanimously approved.

b) KCATT Transportation Plan Update Key 9025 Vouchers – February 2006

Mr. Dick Edinger made a motion to approve payment of the February 2006 KCATT Transportation Plan Update Key 9025 Vouchers in the amount of \$6,114.14. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Soderling and unanimously approved.

c) S.R. 97 Route Development Plan–State and Local Agreement Discussion

Mr. Glenn Miles, Executive Director of KMPO, reported that in terms of the State Route 97 Development Plan (RDP), he provided Bob Austin, ITD District 1, a scope of work which he will use to develop the Local/State agreement. Mr. Miles indicated there are three developments that have offered to contribute local matching funds towards the route development plan. The money provided from these developments can be used early until the money that ITD has in their program for Highway 97 is available. The purpose for getting the state and local agreement in place early is to allow using the local funds to get a jump start on that RDP pending the October beginning of the next fiscal year.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Glenn Miles provided the Interim Guidance for Implementing Key SAFETEA-LU Provisions on Planning, Environment, and Air Quality for Joint FHWA/FTA Authorities documentation to the Board. These new requirements will need to be met by July 1st of 2007. KMPO will try and get as much of the jurisdictions' projects incorporated into the Transportation Plan as they can. Some elements are going to need ITD at the statewide level to get done, but the intent is to make the plan that is ultimately adopted compliant with all of the requirements which are set forth in this guidance. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) information is included in the plan. Mr. Miles thinks KMPO is a step ahead on this because District 1 has already been working on their Intelligent Transportation System Strategic Plan, which will fit in with KMPO's plan. He also wanted the Board to be aware of a significant item, which will require coordinated public transportation human service coordination. KMPO, during the past year, adopted the Public Transportation Plan and involved the human service and social service community during its development. ITD will probably forego funding these types of grants to social service providers in 2007 because most of the State doesn't have a plan that is compliant; they will pick it up in the 2008 grant cycle. Discussions on how they are going to do this continue.

6. KCATT Recommendations - None this month

7. Idaho Urban Balancing Committee

a) Revisions to SAFETEA-LU Distribution of Annual Apportionment Method

Mr. Miles announced that the Urban Balancing Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet the 26th of this month. He passed out a sheet that showed the Urban/TMA – Rural Funding for total SAFETEA-LU Apportionments. He explained the funding process for federal funds received by the State. There is a potential change in the way funding is distributed. The possible changes could have an effect on what is available through the Urban Balancing Committee and LTHAC.

8. Public Transportation Report.

a) Status Report on Coeur d’Alene Tribe South County Service

Ms. Rozi Taylor presented Citylink’s usage chart that shows that they are still growing and ridership has gone up. There were a few minor glitches that need to be worked out as far as timing. The progress reports show that a few buses needed to be taken out of service, but they did not miss any routes and their drivers worked well together with coordinating the routes. It has been determined that the small backup bus for the Tribal Rural route is too small so one of the larger buses had to be used as a backup on that route. The Tribe has purchased another bus that should be in within 120 days to take up the slack in that area.

b) Status Report on Public Transportation North Service

Mr. John Austin commented that the NIC budget has some problems, and while they perfected their transportation system to serve NIC the money that was used for match is going to go away. The system will still get a couple of months of assistance from the NIC leaving them \$12,000 short on matching obligations on the grant. Thanks to Dixie Reid’s suggestion, KATS has contacted both the University of Idaho and Lewis & Clark State College to pick up some of the local match. Once the signal is complete on Hubbard and Northwest Boulevard they could possibly incorporate that into a stop for Citylink so that students going back and forth from surrounding cities can utilize this. With that in mind, KATS asked these colleges for \$6,000 each to help them balance the rest of the budget. Mr. Austin passed out to the Board the FTA 5307 Budget that will be submitted to the FTA and went through the numbers with the Board. He mentioned that they are still using 2005 money to fund the 2006 budget and feel comfortable with this budget being sufficient.

9. Other Business.

a) Bridging the Valley – State and Local Agreement Update

Mr. Miles reported about his Washington D.C. trip last month. He met with the Federal Railroad Administration that is going to be the granting agency for the new program that was passed by the SAFETEA-LU legislation. Under that legislation it provides up to 20 million dollars per state per year for the Rail Line Relocation Program. He met with the gentlemen who is going to be releasing the proposed regulations on how to use these grant funds and he is optimistic this project will be ready to go to construction as the funds are available.

The way this would work would be that KMPO/SRTC would contract with HDR to do the final design and right-of-way acquisition for the project and then ITD would have oversight of the construction management. Rathdrum would have signature authority on those parts of the project that affect Rathdrum streets and right-of-way. ITD would have responsibility and signature authority on all the design plans overall as well as those on Highway 53. The railroad would have a signature block on all the issues that would affect them. It will probably go to bid in the fall of 2007 with a March 2008 construction date. Mr. Miles emphasized that it is going to be important to see how Congress reacts and whether or not they appropriate for this project because that is the funding mechanism that the project has been expecting all along to make it come to realization. At \$40 million dollars per year the project would be done in about 7 years.

b) Kootenai Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update - Status

Mr. Miles stated that KMPO has met with every jurisdiction and agency in Kootenai County. Staff has asked for their financials for the past five years and their capital improvement programs indicating what they see in the future. KMPO hopes to have a preliminary draft to the Board in June. There will be a public involvement process so everyone has a chance to see what is being envisioned for Kootenai County over the next 20 plus years. He emphasized that KMPO is going to take the projects that are in each jurisdictions' capital programs and make sure they are in the Travel Demand Model to see how it affects the overall system. There will also be a financial chapter that looks at both the costs as well as the revenues.

A discussion is needed to determine how to financially constrain long-range transportation plans to those funds that may be reasonably available in that 20-year horizon. Mr. Miles emphasized that part of the federal requirements is that it doesn't have to be financially constrained dollar for dollar, but each jurisdiction has to have a reasonable funding strategy that shows that the projects included in the plan can actually be afforded during the 20-year horizon. Vehicle registration fees that are allowed under state law will be looked at as an option as well as any other funding mechanisms that may be available.

10. Board Member Items.

Mr. Dick Edinger, East Side Highway District, reported that his District along with Ms. Barb Babic, ITD, met with the officials from Shoshone County. Ms. Babic stated that Shoshone County is forming an area transportation team similar to KCATT. In this process they came to see the advantage of coordinating their efforts and meeting on a monthly basis. Ms. Babic's and East Side Highway District's role is to tell them of the advantages and disadvantages of doing planning and stated that when you apply for funding a lot of the questions involve some type of planning effort.

Mr. Edinger also stated that past commissioner, Mr. Don Pishner, has been talking about the bridge at Beauty Bay pertaining to the alignment and improvements along Highway 97. Mr. Edinger has documents and signed petitions that were given to him and he asked Mr. Scott Stokes if there has been anything done to follow up on this matter. Mr. Stokes responded there have been adjustments made to the design as a result of those questions. He was unable to give details at this time, but he does know adjustments were made.

Mr. Gus Johnson from Kootenai County discussed an issue about a parcel on Ramsey Road being made into a Park and Ride. He has met with the owners of the property who want to do something with the parcel. Mr. Miles also met with the developers and talked about the draft regulation process. He recalled that the Board took a strong position on the draft regulations that went through legislature, which pertained to how publicly owned property is relinquished by the ITD. There is a formal adoption process that laid out how ITD determines that the property is no longer necessary for ITD's purposes and how it should be disposed of. The Board took a position that it should be available to the local jurisdictions, first for transportation purposes and then if there was not a need, then it would be made available to the adjacent property owner. Based on that discussion, Mr. Miles stated that the legislature did not have a concurrent resolution on that regulation. ITD in Boise needs to rewrite the regulations and these will go before the Board again. In the interim, the developer that is interested in developing the property has indicated that they have heard the community would like to have a Park and Ride in that location. They are very much interested in working with the community for the placement of a parking lot that could be integrated into the overall development. Mr. Miles told them that he would bring this before the Board as a discussion point, because there are two issues to address. The first one being the community's desire to have a Park and Ride lot located in that place; and the second point is the Board needs to be diligent about any future legislation or any future regulations that resurfaces this discussion about the position or priority in which property gets relinquished by ITD.

Ms. Reid commented that a rule change was brought before the transportation committee. The Association of Idaho Cities worked to let people know that rules that are written should not state to take public land out of public hands.

Mr. Stokes reported that ITD is in the process of developing exhibits and will be in discussion with the city to address the surplus property. He says that there are still

steps involved and rules to follow based on this process of determining what to do with the surplus property.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Jennifer Wash
Recording Secretary