

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Policy Board Meeting  
May 7, 2009  
Idaho Transportation Department District 1 Headquarters  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Jimmie Dorsey, Chair	East Side Highway District
Clay Larkin, Vice Chair	City of Post Falls
Monty Montgomery	Lakes Highway District (replacement)
Damon Allen	Idaho Transportation Department
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Bob Miller	Post Falls Highway District (replacement)
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
Al Hassell	City of Coeur d'Alene
James Mangan	Worley Highway District (replacement)

### **Board Members Absent:**

Marv Lekstrum	Lakes Highway District
Lynn Humphreys	Post Falls Highway District
Rick Currie	Kootenai County
Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe

### **Staff Present:**

Ryan Stewart, Sr. Transportation Planner  
Donna Lively, Administrative Assistant  
Jeff Selle, Transportation Relations Manager

### **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. Al Hassell made a motion to approve the April 2, 2009 meeting minutes. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **3. Public Comments – There were no comments given.**

### **4. Administrative Matters – Ryan Stewart**

#### **Vouchers 4.a.**

**Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the payments:**

- a) KMPO Vouchers for March 2009 in the amount of \$40,704.86.**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Vic Holmes and unanimously approved.**

**Vouchers 4.b.**

**Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the payments:**

- b) Huetter Corridor Study – Key 9170 for February and March 2009 in the amount of \$1,462.04**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Vic Holmes and unanimously approved.**

**c) KMPO Inventory**

Mr. Ryan Stewart stated that at the April 2, 2009 KMPO Policy Board Meeting, it was requested that a detailed list of KMPO purchased inventory be provided to the Board for review at their May meeting. He noted that this list was included in their Board meeting materials and asked whether Board members had any questions. Mr. Al Hassell asked where the inventory is kept. Mr. Stewart stated that all KMPO inventory is kept at the SRTC/KMPO offices in Spokane, WA. Mr. Hassell asked about the purchased laptop computer. Mr. Stewart responded that the laptop was purchased for Carole Richardson's use and is currently secured in the SRTC/KMPO IT Department.

**d) KMPO Member Dues – Federal Aid/Local Match Receipts Update**

Mr. Ryan Stewart stated that at the April 2, 2009 KMPO Policy Board Meeting, Mr. Glenn Miles noted that a detailed list of receipts of federal aid and local matches received would be provided to the Board at their next meeting. He stated that this list was included in their Board meeting materials and asked whether Board members had any questions. Mr. Clay Larkin asked for clarification and confirmation that the KMPO Member Dues are for the 2010 budget cycle, and not the 2009. Mr. Stewart confirmed that the dues are in fact for next year's budget. Mr. James Mangan asked when the dues will be requested next year. Mr. Stewart responded that he would inquire with the SRTC/KMPO accountant and provide a response via email to the Board.

## **5. Public Transportation**

**a) Status Report on Citylink Service – Alan Eirls**

Mr. Alan Eirls provided the Citylink report and noted that Citylink's ridership was up slightly over last month, but over 6,000 from last year. He added that there were no vehicle breakdowns during the month; however, a window was shot out on a bus carrying passengers at 19<sup>th</sup> and Mullan in downtown Coeur d'Alene on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Citylink reported the incident to the police; however the perpetrator has not been found. Mr. Eirls reported that he was in Seattle on May 4<sup>th</sup> to receive the National Ridership Award on behalf of Citylink. He stated that the numbers that were used in obtaining the award were from 2006 to 2007 and reflected a 27% increase in ridership within the 50,000 – 200,000 population category. Mr. Eirls brought the National Ridership Award to show Board members.

**b) Status Report on KATS Service**

The KATS-Link report was handed out. No changes were reported.

**c) Financial Report – John Austin**

Mr. John Austin reported that he, along with Bob Spalding, attended the National Ridership Award ceremony in Seattle. He stated that two identical awards were given to Citylink for display purposes. One of the awards is on display at Tribal Headquarters. He solicited KMPO Board input as to where the second award should be displayed, suggesting possibly the courthouse. Mr. Austin thanked the Tribe and KATS for their award-winning efforts in providing quality service to the region. He stated that it was an exceptional award ceremony and that Citylink was very well received. The Board concurred with the suggestion of the courthouse as a good location to display the award.

**d) Public Transportation Roundtable Report – Pearl Bouchard**

Pearl Bouchard reported that the Roundtable met on April 21<sup>st</sup> and had 12 members in attendance. Bill Brannan from Trailways was present and commented that without ordinances stating that all transit providers are to use the inter-model facility, a real lack of coordination results. In addition, vendors should coordinate their hours of operation based on public needs.

Ms. Bouchard noted that an IMAP (Idaho Mobility Access Pathways) update was provided, which pertains to the State Department of Transportation's efforts in providing rural public transportation. She stated that applications were received which exceeded the available district dollars by \$500,000. Consequently, district committee members agreed that no capital was available and services will remain as they are. She expressed disappointment as the IMAP coordinator of discovering that no additional funding was available given the extensive process involved. She added that they want to give ITD the opportunity to improve the process for next year and ITD is currently in the process of accepting comments.

Ms. Bouchard recognized Craig Wilcox who has been involved in the bench and shelter committee. She stated that he has been a positive, effective force in coordinating the selling and placement of benches at the various stop locations.

Ms. Bouchard reported that there has been a lot of interest in the stimulus-funded mobility manager position. A description of the position can be obtained from Mr. John Austin. Mr. Austin has agreed to attend the next Roundtable meeting to brief them on what can be expected from that position.

She concluded that the next Roundtable meeting is scheduled for August.

#### **e) Transit Center Location Study Update – Ryan Stewart**

Ryan Stewart reported that the first three tasks of the Transit Center Location Study will be completed next week. The first technical memorandum from the study consultants, The Land Group, Inc., will be available soon. The consultants will provide a formal presentation at the next KMPO Board meeting on the selection of a preferred site and several alternate sites. Mr. Stewart displayed a few graphics prepared by Mr. Stan Griswold with The Land Group, Inc.; these graphics were presented at the last Public Transportation Roundtable meeting. He stated that there were approximately 40 sites initially considered, but that after applying the evaluation criteria established by the steering committee, the list of sites has been narrowed and is focused in the vicinity of I-90, Ramsey, Appleway, Seltice, and the Riverstone area. The graphics reflected the various modes of transportation in this area, which is experiencing a lot of growth.

### **6. KCATT Recommendations – Kevin Howard**

#### **a) ITD ITS Project Funding**

Kevin Howard reported that after much deliberation, KCATT made the recommendation at its April 28, 2009 meeting to approve the ITD request for the \$500,000 KMPO ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) funds to be applied toward its I-90 ITS Implementation Project, No. A010(619), Key No. 10619. The first leg of the project will benefit the US-95 Corridor. The KMPO ITS funds will allow for signal controller upgrades so that adaptive signal technology can and will be used. KCATT determined that use of this technology will directly benefit the local jurisdictions adjacent US-95 from Ironwood Drive to Wyoming Avenue. Residents of Kootenai County as a whole will benefit from this system as they navigate through this congested area while conducting business.

Mr. Jimmie Dorsey asked Mr. Damon Allen whether this would be reflected as a line item in expenditures. Mr. Allen responded that he believes it will be a change order to the existing contract, which will specify what the additional funds will cover. Mr. Dorsey requested there be accountability that the KMPO ITS funds cover the items that were agreed to and that if bids come in below this amount, the unused portion of KMPO funding will be returned to KMPO. Mr. Damon assured the Board that ITD will utilize transparent methods to account for the funds and will keep KMPO apprised of expenditures.

**Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the KCATT recommendation to apply \$500,000 of KMPO ITS funding to the ITD I-90 ITS Implementation Project, No. A010(619), Key No. 10619. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

## **7. Director's Report – Ryan Stewart, Acting**

Mr. Ryan Stewart reported that the non-motorized study is progressing quickly. Staff is in the process of summarizing the online survey that was conducted and synthesizing the data collected from the jurisdictions with regard to their plan types and facilities. He noted that a Bike-Ped Future Needs Public Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2009, from 6 – 8 pm at the Trailhead Pavilion at Q'emiln Park in Post Falls. Mr. Stewart invited Board members to attend, along with the public, to ensure that all regional and local priorities are reflected in the study.

Mr. Stewart announced that staff has been in discussions with ITD, Post Falls and CH2M-Hill regarding the I-90/Post Falls Access Study and the need for additional modeling assistance that KMPO will provide. Mr. Stewart noted that Board approval will be needed to add this to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), since it will require significant staff efforts to support the study. A formal proposal will be presented to KCATT at their May 26 meeting, and based on their recommendation, the Board will be presented with it in June for final approval.

Mr. Jeff Selle updated the Board on Idaho legislative activities, noting that they are setting a record for 116 days in session; the biggest hold up is transportation funding. He stated that the House has drafted a set of bills comprising of \$50 million in new and shifted funds in order to address the maintenance and operation (M&O) issue that the governor wants resolved. Since the governor requested \$70 million towards M&O, it is unclear as to whether or not he will approve the House bills for \$50 million. Components of the bills include the elimination of the ethanol exemption so that taxes can now be collected on ethanol products, a Department of Motor Vehicle fee increase (driver's license renewal and replacement, etc.), and a temporary shift of the Idaho State Patrol and Parks Department funding out of the Transportation budget and into the General budget. They expect to establish a commission to determine how they will sustain these funding shifts so as not to over burden the General fund in the future. In addition, they expect to establish a committee to consider how more revenue can be raised for the transportation budget. Mr. Selle mentioned that he would provide further clarity as to how the \$50 million is anticipated to be spent, once additional information is obtained.

Mr. Selle reported that Representative Henderson and Senator Hammond were able to push through a bill to redefine the Grant Anticipated Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) eligibility projects, including the Wyoming to Highway 53 project. Because bids are coming in lower than anticipated, the overall cost of the Wyoming to Highway 53 project could be funded via these excess project funds.

At the federal level, Mr. Miles was in Washington D.C. last week with the Idaho delegation to support the 2010 appropriations requests: \$6.6 million for the Highway 95 improvements based on the Access Study, and the \$2 million for the Transit Center. Congressman Walt Minnick, however, has taken a stand against earmarking, which could create a problem in obtaining matching requests both in the House and the Senate.

Mr. Clay Larkin questioned why the Legislature continues to authorize more GARVEE bond funding when they are struggling to make interest payments on the bonds they have on the books. He also asked what the Interim Study Committee could possibly study this summer that hasn't been studied over the past 15 years. Mr. Selle stated that specific language will require the appointed interim committee to present a formal proposal to the Legislature by February 1, 2010 and that the Legislature will be required to act on the proposal. Mr. Larkin added that he hoped the Committee will obtain local input. Mr. Selle stated that the Committee is comprised of 5 members from the House, 5 from the Senate and the co-chairs of the Joint Finance Committee. With Senator Shawn Keough sitting on the Joint Finance/Transportation Committee, Mr. Selle felt that KMPO has an advocate that can bring the hearings to the northern part of the state.

With regard to the 2010 appropriations request of \$2 million for the Transit Center, Mr. Anson Gable questioned how the transit center relates to KMPO and where the money would come from. Mr. Gable was reminded that at the February 5, 2009 KMPO Policy Board Meeting, the Board approved KCATT's list of potential earmark transportation projects, which included the transit center, and authorized staff to discuss the prioritized projects with the Idaho Congressional delegation.

## **8. Other Business**

### **a) DEQ Rulemaking Update**

Mr. Ryan Stewart directed Board members to a KMPO Board Memo handout regarding Air Quality Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance Program Negotiated Rulemaking. Mr. Jeff Selle stated that KMPO has taken a formal position on the vehicle emission testing program that the state wants to implement in Kootenai County to reduce ozone precursors they feel are relatively high in our area. He stated that ironically, an article recently published in the Coeur d'Alene Press lists the City of Coeur d'Alene as having tied with several other states nationwide as number one in cleanest air for ozone precursors. The data was published in the American Lung Association's Annual Report on America's cleanest cities pertaining to ozone. He stated that the legislation passed last year requires communities with about 85% of the EPA threshold for ozone non-attainment levels to implement a new vehicle emission testing program. Based on initial DEQ calculations, Kootenai County was at the 86% threshold for ozone non-attainment levels. Currently, only Ada and Canyon counties are impacted, allowing Kootenai County time to negotiate with legislators and DEQ to look at less costly and less punitive alternatives, such as a simple public education campaign. Mr. Selle added that the State of Washington along with many other states is phasing out their vehicle

emission testing program because current vehicle technology meets emission requirements.

**b) TIP Amendment No. 3**

Mr. Ryan Stewart reported that KMPO has received the Section 1511 certification for the first group of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) projects. The list of certified projects included in ITD's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was provided. The Kootenai County Urban Formula Stimulus Project (Key No. 11910) is for transit & support vehicles, preliminary engineering and design, transit center construction, preventive maintenance and transit amenities in the amount of \$1,290,202. Staff recommended Board approval of the Kootenai County ARRA project as TIP Amendment No. 3.

Mr. Clay Larkin asked how the cost for the land to house the transit facility will be addressed. Mr. Stewart responded stating that the purpose for the \$2 million 2010 appropriations request is to purchase the land and construct the transit facility. He added that \$700,000 of the \$1,290,202 ARRA funding would be applied to the design and environmental work for the transit center once the location has been selected and approved by the Board. Mr. Larkin questioned the timing of the requests and the uncertainty of obtaining funding for the land purchase. Mr. Stewart stated that the Federal Transit Administration encouraged states to submit their projects as one-line items giving them the ability to utilize the funding for other transit items without the need for TIP amendments should projects stall.

Mr. James Mangan asked who would own and operate the transit center. Mr. Stewart responded that this was a big item to be decided before the site can be purchased and that agreements would need to be enacted before the project could proceed to construction.

**Mr. Al Hassell made a motion to approve TIP Amendment No. 3 for transit & support vehicles, preliminary engineering and design, transit center construction, preventive maintenance and transit amenities. Mr. Jim Mangan seconded the motion, which was approved by all present with the exception of Anson Gable, Clay Larkin and Damon Allen who voted nay.**

**c) State Highway 97 Corridor Study**

Ryan Stewart provided copies of the Draft State Highway 97 Corridor Study to the Board. He stated that KCATT received copies of the study at their April meeting for review. The study is in the midst of a 30-day public comment period. He added that a pdf version is accessible on the KMPO website; however, many of the files are quite large due to maps and graphics. Mr. Stewart noted that a KCATT recommendation for Board action in June will be solicited at this month's KCATT meeting. He introduced Christine Fueston from Ruen-Yeager & Associates, noting that she was present to answer any questions from the Board.

#### **d) Huetter Road Corridor Study**

Ryan Stewart provided copies of the Huetter Road Corridor Study final report to the Board, noting that the preferred alternative alignment was adopted by the Board several years ago. Mr. Stewart noted that prior to the release of the final report, each agency within the jurisdictions in the corridor alignment received detailed maps and engineering drawings. An additional public comment period is not necessary; however, jurisdictions are being provided an opportunity to review the final report prior to a solicited KCATT recommendation for Board action next month.

#### **9. Board Member Items**

Mr. Clay Larkin stated that with regard to the 2010 Census, given the growth between Spokane and Kootenai Counties, KMPO will qualify as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). He noted that there is only one other TMA in the state located in southern Idaho. He suggested that the Board be educated on what a TMA is all about, what the rules are for grants and funding, etc. Mr. Jeff Selle noted that he had conducted extensive research on TMAs when he worked at the Spokane Chamber of Commerce. To his recollection, there had to be significant cross-commuter traffic for journey-to-work data; i.e., thresholds had to be met in order for the TMAs to be merged. Depending on the census results, Spokane/Kootenai Counties could be a combined statistical area as well as having separate statistical data kept on each county. Mr. Selle stated that he would compile information on TMAs for Board review at next month's meeting.

Mr. Al Hassell pointed out that the US95 Access Study recommendation projects now contains throw away work due to the ITD projects along that corridor. Mr. Damon Allen responded stating that ITD worked with the City of Coeur d'Alene within their given timeframe and that at the time, the US95 Access Study was just that – a study. ITD has a federal mandate to comply with ADA requirements applicable to the corridor in addition to a pre-existing maintenance project. He felt the throw-away work would be minimal on these expansion projects, which consists of a mill/inlay and overlay on the mainline US-95—a \$4.5 million dollar job over 5 miles. He added that turn bays here and there 5 years from now are insignificant to the cost and operations of the current project. Without the time and funding, ITD was unable to address the engineering needed to proceed with the work outlined in the mobility study.

Mr. Damon Allen reported that ITD is conducting the mill/overlay work on US-95 at night to minimize the impact on traffic. The major crossings are ripped up and crossing guards are stationed at these locations. He noted that this was the least expensive and fastest way to get people across US-95 in a five week period.

Mr. Allen reported that it is STIP update time for ITD. ITD has only an additional \$5 million out in 2014, thus there won't be many new projects to include in their STIP. ITD will try to squeeze some of the US95 access/mobility projects in the STIP under safety programs and are hoping to receive additional earmark funds. ITD is proceeding with the GARVEE-funded Highway 53/Ohio Match project this summer. Recent legislation



extended the boundary of the GARVEE limits to Wyoming and although the project is designed, there are some right-of-way issues to resolve. Mr. Allen noted that the project could go out for bid by late summer if funding is identified. He stated that he would provide a detailed update on GARVEE funding to the KMPO Board once information has been disseminated from the ITD Board. He responded to Mr. Larkin's earlier comment regarding GARVEE funding stating that it is capped at 30% of federal aid in order to ensure that payments are made.

Mr. Jimmie Dorsey updated the Board on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the KMPO service contract. He stated that KMPO legal counsel, Mr. Art Macomber, has worked diligently in researching and gathering data with regard to what services SRTC provides to KMPO, what resources are required, what the expenditures and funding sources are, etc. Mr. Dorsey stated that he has sent materials to Board members for their review and input and discussed the need to have a contract proposal that is thorough and complete so that bidders know exactly what services they are to provide. He added that he is working on possibly setting up a special KMPO Policy Board meeting or workshop to further review and refine the proposal prior to advertising it and will keep Board members informed of any such meeting.

#### **10. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

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Donna Lively  
Recording Secretary