

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
December 2, 2004
Idaho Transportation Department District 1 Headquarters
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Board Members in Attendance:

Mark Soderling	Lakes Highway District
Dick Edinger	East Side Highway District
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Lynn Humphreys	Post Falls Highway District
Gus Johnson	Kootenai County Commissioner
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Scott Stokes	ITD District 1 Engineer

Board Members Absent:

Dixie Reid, Chair	City of Coeur d'Alene
Clay Larkin	City of Post Falls

Staff Present

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Tanna Dole, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes.

Mark Soderling made a motion to approve the November 4, 2004 meeting minutes. Vic Holmes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Director/Public Comments

None

4. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of October Vouchers

Dick Edinger made a motion to approve the payments of the October 2004 voucher list in the amount of \$10,416.35 and the expenses (April 2004 – October 2004) for the Transportation Plan Update, Key No. 9025 in the amount of \$19,019.62. Anson Gable seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5. KCATT Recommendations.

Glenn Miles reported the KCATT recommended the KMPO board approve the service proposal regarding public transportation from the Coeur d' Alene Tribe.

6. Idaho Urban Committee.

Glenn Miles reported the Urban Committee met November 18 and the next meeting will be in February 2005. Miles explained that at the February meeting there would be an evaluation of the program and the project schedules. Miles distributed a handout detailing the program funds of each MPO in Idaho. Miles explained if there were any project schedule slips there might be funding available and an opportunity to introduce a project for consideration. Miles alerted the board members it might be time to call for some projects as early as January or February with the intent of slipping a project that is ready into the program.

7. Public Transportation Report

Nelson/Nygaard Presentation of Draft Public Transportation Feasibility Study

Tom Brennan and Joey Goldman from Nelson/Nygaard gave a presentation detailing the draft Public Transportation Feasibility Study. The presentation included existing conditions, public involvement phase, service alternatives, governance and funding scenarios. Discussion ensued upon completion of the presentation. The Public Transportation Feasibility Study is posted at the website address kmpo.net

Gus Johnson disagreed with the organization of a Regional Public Transit Authority (RPTA) and expressed concern over the passing of a local option tax in support of public transportation. Tom Brennan explained if the Idaho legislature made public transportation funding possible through a local option the measure would need the vote of local residents for approval. Brennan continued by stating the intent of the study is to provide a foundation in which to build future opportunities. Lynn Humphreys also expressed concern regarding an RPTA and the issue of creating another government agency.

James Mangan questioned the choice of routes outlined in the report and whether those choices truly served the needs of the community. Brennan agreed that continuing

research will be needed to determine coverage areas. Glenn Miles explained the survey conducted as part of the study was to determine key destinations and the report includes conceptual service alternatives reflecting those survey results.

Glenn Miles explained there would be a public comment period of thirty (30) days and after incorporating public comments the final study report would be released. The final report and comments will be brought before the policy board for review. Ultimately the KMPO board will adopt a plan they believe to be the best strategy for public transportation in Kootenai County. The plan will serve as the guide to future actions as funding becomes available and public interest dictates.

Dick Edinger requested the audience be allowed to comment. Kent Propst, Community Relations Director from North Idaho College stated his support for both the short-term and long-term plan. Propst explained there is a shortage of parking space at the College and sees with increasing enrollment the problem will continue to worsen. Propst believes public transportation would alleviate the problem by providing other means to reach the campus. Cindy Hammond with Lewis Clark State College also expressed support for public transportation. Hammond also mentioned increased enrollment and said it may be necessary to move to a larger facility as needs direct. Hammond stated Lewis Clark State College is the “completion” institution for North Idaho College and from their perspective it is very important to have connectivity between the two institutions. David Pafford from the Veterans Unit of Idaho Commerce and Labor asked if there has been any discussion with large employers to provide company incentives as a means of promoting public transportation. Tom Brennan responded by explaining that generally a fixed route already in place would be needed in order to secure cooperative strategies with businesses.

Coeur d’ Alene Tribe Public Transportation Service Proposal

Glenn Miles said there has been thought to coordinating an effort with the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe regarding public transportation. Miles said that John Austin has been working with the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe to develop a service proposal that would provide public transportation service from southern Kootenai County to Coeur d’ Alene and Post Falls. Service is proposed for seven days a week. Proposed major destinations in the Coeur d’ Alene area would be Hayden Albertson’s, Kootenai Medical Center, Kmart, Museum of North Idaho and the Coeur d’ Alene Resort. In Post Falls major destinations would be WalMart, Super 1, and Holiday Inn Express. Idaho Transportation Department has awarded the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe rural 5311 Federal Transit funds for a connection from Desmet to Worley. The service proposal presented to the KMPO policy board would supply public transportation service north from Worley to the Coeur d’ Alene area. The Coeur d’ Alene Tribe would use current resources to fund the proposed service as well as provide a match for 5307 funds.

John Austin distributed a detailed financial statement. Austin reviewed the public transportation financials. Austin explained that ultimately the amount of \$260K+ would be the match contribution from the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe and would allow public transportation in Kootenai County to leverage additional federal funding. Austin introduced Bill Spencer, Guest Services Director for the Coeur d’ Alene Casino and Pam

Wagner, Transportation Manager for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Bob Spalding, the Rural Operations Manager for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Wagner detailed the current public transportation service provided by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Wagner noted exemplarily safety records, reliable schedules, clean buses and friendly courteous service.

Glenn Miles said the service proposal is for a three-year period and offers a unique opportunity for the public to respond to a fixed route service. John Austin said the vehicles used for the southern connection would have public transportation logos for Kootenai and would bear no reference to the Coeur d'Alene Casino. Glenn Miles stated that if advertising on the buses were to be used as revenue then the advertising would be open to any individuals or groups. Miles further stated a public transportation system could not discriminate based on trip purpose. Lynn Humphreys expressed concern about educating the public as to the existence of public transportation. Pam Wagner responded by explaining a budget has been developed expressly for marketing the service. Gus Johnson recommended the proposal include service to the Work Force Training Center at Post Falls. Discussion ensued. **Dick Edinger made a motion to approve a public transportation partnership with the Coeur d' Alene Tribe. The motion was seconded by Gus Johnson, which passed unanimously.**

8. Board Member Items

Gus Johnson requested title fee legislation be on the January 2005 agenda.

Dick Edinger introduced Jim Dorsey as the new Highway Commissioner for East Side Highway District.

Lynn Humphreys thanked the Coeur d'Alene Tribe representatives in attendance and also thanked the consultants from Nelson/Nygaard for their presentation.

9. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

TANNA DOLE
Recording Secretary