

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
December 1, 2005
Idaho Transportation Department District 1 Headquarters
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members Absent:

Clay Larkin	City of Post Falls
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Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Executive Director
Kayla Kruse, Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of May Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Mark Soderling made a motion to approve the November 3, 2005 meeting minutes. Mr. Anson Gable seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Director/Public Comments

Mr. Miles indicated he had been made aware that some ITD property located at Appleway and Ramsey Road was being considered for surplus by ITD. This location may make a good park & ride lot and asked the KMPO Board if we should be discussing the need to retain the property in public ownership. It was the consensus of the Board that additional information should be brought to the next KMPO Board

meeting for consideration. Mr. Stokes indicated that District 1 could put some maps together for the next meeting.

Mr. Miles was asked by ITD to add an item to the agenda under Administrative Matters related to Bridging The Valley. No one from the public expressed a desire to speak to the Board.

4. Administrative Matters

a) September KMPO Vouchers

Mr. Lynn Humphreys made a motion to approve the payment of the October 2005 KMPO Vouchers in the amount of \$6,825.58. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vic Holmes and unanimously approved.

b) Bridging the Valley Project Status Report

Mr. Scott Stokes with ITD District 1 informed the KMPO Board that as a result of the federal transportation reauthorization bill, Bridging the Valley in Idaho received \$5,000,000 in project construction funding. The intent would be to construct the Rathdrum Main Street Underpass, which has completed 30% design and engineering and will soon be completing the environmental phase.

ITD is recommending that KMPO enter into an agreement with ITD and then subsequently contract with SRTC to complete the final design and right of way, in preparation for construction. The consensus of the KMPO Board was for ITD to bring back the draft agreements to the Board at the next meeting.

5. KCATT Recommendations.

KCATT Chair John Pankratz indicated KCATT has reviewed the recommendation of the KMPO Staff to adopt the KCATT Transportation Plan as the KMPO Interim Plan for the purpose of meeting the Federal MPO requirements until such time as the updated plan is available.

Mr. Dick Edinger made a motion to adopt the KCATT Plan as the KMPO Interim Plan as recommended by KCATT. Mr. Anson Gable seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. Idaho Urban Balancing Committee.

Glenn Miles reported the Urban Balancing Committee met in November and approved some minor changes to the 2006 program that were requested by LHTAC; however, some project requests to slip back into 2007 or 2008 were not approved due to the lack of room in those program years. One project has been in the program since 1983, and the question was raised whether or not it should be eliminated entirely. The committee

has asked LHTAC to bring back better information on the delayed projects with a realization that failure to obligate in 2005 could result in the project slipping until 2011.

Mr. Miles also informed the Board that KMPO and COMPASS in Boise had an opportunity to meet with the ITD Board to discuss the future of project development and programming, which has been an issue for the past several years. It appears the ITD Board may be interested in changing obligation of funds to bid opening, creating a quarterly release of projects for bidding, and development of contingency projects at the beginning of the year, to avoid the traditional end of the year scramble. Mr. Miles indicated to the Board that it may be in the best interest of KMPO to accelerate projects in the program in order to cover a project that may fail to meet its delivery date. This would insulate the KMPO projects by providing an opportunity to substitute projects rather than reprogram to an out year.

7. Public Transportation Report.

a) Status Report on KATS Service

Mr. John Austin gave an update on the KATS system to the KMPO Board indicating the system is continuing to grow, and there is continued effort to better integrate the KATS service with City Link. Mr. Austin also indicated that Kootenai County would be working on a new contract with NICE; which would take effect in April 2006. The KMPO Board requested continued updates on the progress of ridership. Commissioner Johnson asked the Board if they would like the County to produce monthly reports for the Board. The consensus of the Board was that quarterly reports would be sufficient and thanked the County for the opportunity to get the information.

b) Status Report on City Link Service

Mr. Bill Spencer and Ms. Rosie Taylor gave an update on the status of the City Link Urban Service, and indicated that ridership continues to be on the increase. The Board was provided a recap of the ridership statistics for the first full month of operation. Board members expressed appreciation for all the work that has been done to make this service happen and was pleased with the encouraging results. Mr. Spencer also introduced Annie Nomee who would be providing updates to the KMPO Board in the future.

Ms. Taylor indicated the rural service in the south county has continued to grow and the link service has been growing as well. She indicated that City Link was closed when U.S. 95 was closed; however, passengers needing to get back to the Post Falls/Coeur d' Alene area were re-routed through the Spokane Valley as those roads were still open.

Mr. Spencer indicated that staff is currently working on some schedule changes to fine-tune the service. When those changes are completed, new route maps and schedules would be printed. She indicated that over 5,000 schedules had been distributed.

8. Other Business

a) Election of Officers

Board Chair Dixie Reid opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Gus Johnson nominated Lynn Humphreys as KMPO Chair for 2006. Mr. Dick Edinger nominated Clay Larkin as KMPO Vice-Chair for 2006.

Mr. Mark Soderling moved that nominations be closed and unanimous consent for the slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Mangan and approved unanimously.

9. Board Member Items

Chair Dixie Reid expressed her appreciation to ITD District 1 for all their assistance in getting KMPO up and running during the past 3 years as well as to the rest of the KMPO Board. Mr. Scott Stokes expressed his appreciation to Ms. Reid for all of her hard work as Chair during the past three years and said she should be commended for all of the accomplishments that have occurred. Members of the Board acknowledged and concurred with Mr. Stokes' comments.

Mr. Mark Soderling reported to the Board that he attended the Transportation Investment Forum and was impressed how Ms. Reid represented Highway Districts and Cities and their need for transportation funding. There is a need for new funding for transportation not transferring money around to and from other programs to pay for transportation projects.

Mr. Soderling and Ms. Reid indicated the 30-year program for transportation need for the State of Idaho is estimated at between \$20 and \$22 billion. That amounts to a shortfall of an estimated \$202 million per year over the next 30 years. Ms. Reid indicated forum participants will have their last meeting on January 5, 2006 and will see the big list of potential ways to address the identified funding needs. The Board was informed that 1 cent in gas tax generates approximately \$88 million per year in revenue.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Glenn F. Miles
Executive Director