

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
July 7, 2005
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
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Lynn Humphreys	Post Falls Highway District
Rick Currie (for Gus Johnson)	Kootenai County Commissioner
Clay Larkin	City of Post Falls
Dixie Reid, Chair	City of Coeur d'Alene
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Andrea Storjohann	ITD District 1 Assistant Engineer

Board Members Absent:

Gus Johnson	Kootenai County
Francis SiJohn	Coeur d' Alene Tribe
Anson Gable	City of Hayden

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board was called to order by Chair, Dixie Reid, at 1:35 pm.

2. Approval of May Meeting Minutes.

Lynn Humphreys made a motion to approve the June 2, 2005 meeting minutes. Dick Edinger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Director/Public Comments

Glenn Miles informed the KMPO Board that Tanna Dole has recently left KMPO and moved to Oregon, where she accepted a job with a small town. She has been a great asset to KMPO and will be difficult to replace. Board members requested the Director to send a card to Tanna expressing the KMPO Board's appreciation for her service and wishing her the best in her new job.

Stan Hess 1314 W. Cardinal, Hayden, Idaho 83835 spoke to the KMPO Board regarding the need for a transit center between 4th, Harrison and the Freeway to accommodate both Greyhound and local transit service. As a bus driver for 26 years with Golden Gate Transit, he would like to see fixed routes and shelters established in the community.

4. Administrative Matters

Lynn Humphreys made a motion to approve the payment of the May 2005 KMPO Vouchers in the amount of \$7,061.32 and the KCATT Transportation Plan Update Key 9025 Vouchers in the amount of \$33,992.05. Vic Holmes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5. KCATT Recommendations.

None.

6. Idaho Urban Committee.

Glenn Miles reported the Urban Committee would meet in late July to discuss the end of the year plan for the Urban Program.

7. Public Transportation Report.

John Austin reported that KATS, KMC, and NIC had approximately 70,000 boarding annually. Austin also prepared the annual and anticipated costs report for the upcoming 2006 service year, which were distributed to the KMPO Board members. The current KATS agreement expires in 2006, and they are seeking an increase to \$464,420 to reflect rising operating costs and an increase from 4 to 6 vans. The impact would result in the need to seek an increase from local jurisdictions to provide the necessary local match to available federal funds. Mr. Austin presented three options to the KMPO Board for consideration, which looked at the need to establish fares ranging from \$1.00 to \$1.75. Mr. Austin reminded the KMPO Board the \$1.75 fare would be consistent with the recently adopted Public Transportation Plan for the Kootenai Metropolitan Area.

Board members asked questions about the current and proposed service related to service, productivity, integration of existing service with the upcoming service being provided by the Coeur d' Alene Tribe, as well as the potential impact on ridership as a result of moving from a voluntary contribution to an established. John Austin also reminded the KMPO Board members the impact of the increase in 2006 would only be for a six-month period since the current agreement extends to March 2006.

James Mangan asked if there had been an analysis on the potential change in ridership that would result from instituting a fare. Mr. Austin indicated that no analysis had been conducted, but wouldn't expect a significant decrease since most need the service in order to make their trips.

Dick Edinger questioned whether there had been any survey of existing riders on the willingness to pay, or the overall expenses of charging a fare compared to the amount actually collected. Mr. Austin stated the buses are already set up to collect fares; however the actual cost to collect, account for, and track the funds had not been analyzed. One suggestion from the public was to establish advertising on shelters and buses to help generate the local matching funds.

Dixie Reid requested Mr. Austin to send the information to each of the jurisdictions in the study area and seek their comments in order to know how it fits into their budgeting process.

8. Other Business

a. KMPO Population and Employment Report

Glenn Miles provided the KMPO with a presentation on the results of the population and employment projections developed by Intermountain Demographics. Each jurisdiction and agency has been given an opportunity to comment on the forecasts as well as the distribution of the forecast throughout the county. Miles indicated the challenge is remaining within the countywide control totals, recognizing the competitive nature of local jurisdictions and the expectation that more people will be in "their" jurisdictions than "others." Miles reminded the Board the data would be used to develop the current and future year travel demand model anticipated for delivery in September.

b. Regional Travel Survey

Preliminary data was presented to the Board indicating some of the preliminary statistics coming from the household survey. The Final Report and Executive Summary will be available in August.

c. State Highway 97 Route Development Plan

Glenn Miles gave a presentation to the Board on the results to date on the route development plan analysis. Indications are that with the current zoning in place and using the recently developed population and employment forecasts, SH 97 could have as many as 9,000 cars per day in contrast to the 1,300 cars per day currently operating from Beauty Bay Recreational Area Access point to I-90. This would be equivalent to 900 cars typically using the road during the peak hour. Board members indicated that it is important that we find ways to address these emerging needs.

9. Board Member Items

Clay Larkin reported that there would be a State Transportation Forum at Templin's on September 13th to discuss the 30-year Capital Program needs. Dixie Reid as a member of the Forum, indicated there is a 12.5 billion dollar capital improvement need across the state, with ITD needing \$6.3 billion, and \$1.07 Billion for Public Transportation. This equates to a \$265 million per year shortfall. The forum should wrap up its work in November.

Commissioner Wilbur indicated there needs to be an additional access point across the river between Post Falls and U.S. 95. There used to be a bridge at Greensferry Road and we should be looking a ways to increase the awareness for an additional access to the south side of the Spokane River.

Dixie Reid reminded Board members of the breakfast with the Idaho Transportation Board on July 19th at 7:00 a.m. The ITD Executive Board will be visiting District One during that week and would like to have an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to the KMPO Board. Glenn Miles, at the request of ITD reminded the Board this is a breakfast for the KMPO and ITD Board's. Anyone else is certainly welcome to attend, but the breakfast itself is limited to board members and staff. Members should contact Glenn to give him an accurate head count for ITD in advance of the breakfast.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Glenn F. Miles
Executive Director