

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
July 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
Dick Edinger	East Side Highway District
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Gus Johnson	Kootenai County
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Scott Stokes	Idaho Transportation Department
Anson Gable	City of Hayden

Board Members Absent:

Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Mark Soderling	Lakes Highway District

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Executive Director
Jennifer Wash, Administrative Assistant

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 May Meeting Minutes.

It was noted the minutes should be corrected to indicate that Mr. Vic Holmes and Mr. Anson Gable were both absent at the June 1, 2006 Policy Board meeting and so their names were removed from the Board Members in Attendance list.

Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the June 1, 2006 meeting minutes with the corrections noted. Mr. Vic Holmes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments.

4. Administrative Matters – Glenn Miles

a) KMPO Vouchers – May 2006

Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to approve the payment of the May 2006 KMPO Vouchers in the amount of \$7,895.72. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dick Edinger and unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to approve payment of the May 2006 KCATT Transportation Plan Update Key 9025 Vouchers in the amount of \$5,277.82. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dick Edinger and unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Glenn Miles, Executive Director of KMPO, stated that the State and Local Agreement has been signed and will get the Request for Proposals (RFP) out the first of next week. He said that the RFP will be kept open for thirty days for people to propose and then the committee will get together and select from those that have submitted. At the August Board meeting the finalist will be presented and they will then start the first of September. This will coincide with the money that is available now through the state and will run right into the October first funding that will then be available. Mr. Miles also commented that KMPO has received calls and e-mails from people living on the east side of Lake Coeur d'Alene along Hwy 97 so a series of public meetings in Harrison for public comment will be coordinated.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Miles reported that KMPO will be giving a presentation to the Coeur d'Alene Chamber on July 13th on the Huetter Corridor Right of Way Needs Study. Senator Geodde has requested that Mr. Miles go with him to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta the middle part of this month to discuss the Huetter Corridor Study, Bridging the Valley, and what is going on in terms of economic opportunities for Kootenai County. The Community Transit Association of Idaho is looking for support to move forward with one of the transportation investment forum recommendations for allowing local options to support public transportation. Mr. Miles also reminded the Board that the ITD Board will be in Kootenai County the 20th and 21st of July. There will be a breakfast and a bus tour of the local projects.

Mr. Miles brought an article in the paper to the Board's attention indicating that Citylink was expanding. He wanted to clarify that the discussion about serving Rathdrum has been primarily how Rathdrum can be brought in through the KATS program to make up for the deficit brought about by the North Idaho College no longer providing service. At

this point in time the idea was to provide service from Rathdrum to where Citylink picks up in Post Falls to make that connection. Mr. Miles stated the paper made a small error in the fact that Citylink is not expanding, but rather KATS is providing service to connect to Citylink.

Mr. Miles reported that at the last KCATT meeting ITD Board member John McHugh indicated he would bring forward a discussion to the ITD Board related to the closure of non-signalized median crossings on Hwy 95 through Coeur d'Alene and Hayden. He stated they are doing an analysis on where those trips would go if those median crossings were not available. Mr. McHugh gave a statement that there would be an opportunity for local entities to make comment at the July 21st meeting. After a brief discussion and clarification on procedure the Board came to the conclusion it is their desire to have a traffic study done with suggestions on improvements by Mr. Miles to present to the ITD Board meeting on July 21st.

Mr. Miles indicated to the Board that the ITD Board has eliminated Preliminary Development from the program and created the new "Horizons" Program, which means that the projects in the Horizons program are not allowed to move forward into preliminary development and environmental. He stated that Wyoming to Ohio Match, a critical importance to this area, is in preliminary development on the state's system. This project is in the design phase and Lancaster Interchange is part of this project. Mr. Scott Stokes went to Idaho Falls where the Board met to request this project be authorized to move forward even though it is in the Horizons Program. This was requested because it is a partnership project with Hayden and KMPO. This motion was tabled to the July 21st meeting and Mr. Miles suggested going to the Board and supporting the funding to complete the preliminary design and environmental to keep the project moving since Lancaster Interchange is a part of this project and something the area needs.

Mr. Clay Larkin also emphasized the need for the Access 90 project and the Corridor Study of I-90 to be top priority as well and be put back into the Development Plan because of safety issues to the public. He stated the ITD Board decision seems to be regressing instead of progressing and he emphasized that we support all the projects currently funded.

Mr. Miles suggested the KMPO Board listen to what the ITD Board has to say at the breakfast on the 20th, make their comments and then make a discussion point on how they suggest projects progress without available funding. Mr. Scott Stokes commented the STIP will be available early next week and it is imperative the Board is aware of what is in the STIP so they can have a solid background for comment on the different projects.

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 committee will meet in the latter part of July to see which projects will progress and which will not. He was pleased to announce that Hayden received their Right of Way certification, although they will have to scope their project back from its original limits. Mr. Miles credited Hayden for getting the R/W done on time.

8. Public Transportation Report.

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

Mr. Bill Spencer passed out the Citylink ridership packets and reported to the Board that they have had continual growth for the month of June and gave a status report of the Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Link, and rural ridership. He is still expecting the new bus in August.

Ms. Pam Wagner introduced Mr. Allen Earls the new Transportation Manager of Citylink. Mr. Allen introduced himself and gave a short update of his background in transportation. Ms. Wagner also updated the Board that Mr. Earls is going to hire an assistant manager and a mechanic and if anyone knows of anybody that would be qualified and interested in these positions please contact Mr. Earls.

Ms. Annie Nomee updated the Board on the tragic accident at the Casino last Thursday and invited the Board to the Memorial for Donald Hanson and Richard Stokes. She also stated that Citylink will advertise their one-year anniversary this fall.

b) Status Report on Public Transportation North Service

Mr. John Austin mentioned the reason for the article in the paper was due to his meeting with the City of Rathdrum asking for the City to help with the funding gap. The press picked up the fact that it was all about Citylink, but the one good thing that came from the article was the fact that KATS has been bombarded with calls to get the one-dollar service from their homes to the bus stop. Mr. Austin reported that KATS runs a daily service to Rathdrum in the morning and the afternoon. They have not received a lot of ridership but wanted to show Rathdrum a good faith effort on behalf of KATS and would like to see if there is any interest in this service. Rathdrum also indicated if they help fund this system they would like an expansion of Citylink, a service that is equal to the other cities. Mr. Austin stated that at Rathdrum's population level it would be a significantly less annual contribution of \$5,700 and no matter if Rathdrum agrees to fund or not there will still be a funding gap.

Mr. Austin and Ms. Reid recognized the effort the Coeur d'Alene Tribe put forward to bring Citylink to fruition.

Mr. Austin brought forward an amendment to the current grant. The request is to increase the amounts programmed from unprogrammed Section 5307 funds available to Kootenai County. With the Boards approval this amendment would be sent to the ITD and on to FTA.

Key No	Location	Year	Orig Cost	Rvsd Cost	Type of Project	Prgm	Sponsor
Change							
PI1038	Coeur d'Alene	2006	416	483	Operations	5307	Kootenai Co
PI1040	Coeur d'Alene	2006	25	78	Prev Mtnce	5307	Kootenai Co

Costs shown reflect federal dollars only and are rounded to the nearest thousands of dollars.

Ms. Dixie Reid made a motion to approve the TIP Amendment 1 for 5307 dollars for operations and preventative maintenance sponsored by Kootenai County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dick Edinger and unanimously approved.

9. Other Business.

a) Huetter Corridor Right of Way Needs Study

Mr. Miles reported that KMPO and Ruen-Yeager has met with KCATT and he has received comments from various jurisdictions. After the presentation on the given comments and changes by Ms. Christine Fueston of Ruen-Yeager, Mr. Miles asked to have authorization from the Board to have a series of public meetings for public comment on the report. Ms. Fueston passed out an alignment map to the Board and clarified changes and addressed comments from KCATT. After the public process there would be possible adjustments made based on the comments. The map and report would then be brought back to the Board for approval, and then to each jurisdiction for consideration to adopt into their comprehensive plan.

Ms. Dixie Reid made a motion to move forward to the public meeting process. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Mangan and unanimously approved.

b) International Global Gateway Concept – Avista Corp. Presentation

Ms. Latisha Hill of Avista Corporation has been working with various transportation groups to develop the concept of a global gateway for the Inland Northwest and has given a presentation regarding this subject to a number of groups in Idaho, Washington and Canada. The Board requested a presentation at this meeting.

Ms. Hill's presentation was on a new conceptual plan that would be designed to enhance the region's transportation infrastructure in a fashion that would promote

economic development in the greater northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Canadian region. The Global Gateway presentation looks at the region's existing transportation infrastructure and the international air cargo market. The presentation raises question as to whether this region could, in fact, develop an inland port to increase the amount of international air cargo that we are already beginning to see at Spokane International Airport and along US Highway 95. At the request of Washington Senator Patty Murray's office, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, along with the support of various regional groups, has submitted a federal request for \$500,000 to do a full-scale feasibility study to determine if an international Global Gateway is a good fit for the Inland Northwest region.

10. Board Member Items.

Mr. James Mangan of the Worley Highway District updated the Board that Mr. Tom Nigh has retired after 30 years of service as the street supervisor and announced that Mr. Kevin Howard is the new appointed district advisor.

Ms. Dixie Reid reminded the Board of the July 20th public forum on Transportation Investment. She also thanked Mr. McHugh for all his years on the ITD Board and his superb representation of this area through the years.

Mr. Clay Larkin informed the Board about the Annual Association of Cities meeting and his concerns with the raising of sales tax to help fund public transportation as well as raising property taxes. Mr. Larkin also expressed concern for an item on the ballot that is campaigned as 'save your home'. Ms. Reid states that it is a real serious measure and the public may not be aware of its impact to the community if it passes.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Jennifer Wash
Recording Secretary