

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
January 3, 2008
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
Al Hassell	City of Coeur d'Alene
Dick Edinger (Alternate)	East Side Highway District
Marv Lekstrum	Lakes Highway District
Damon Allen	Idaho Transportation Department
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
Rick Currie	Kootenai County
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum

Board Members Absent:

Jimmie Dorsey	East Side Highway District
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Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Executive Director
Carole Richardson, Transp. Planning Engineer
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.

Mr. Humphreys welcomed the two new members of the Board, Mr. Al Hassell from the City of Coeur d'Alene and Mr. Vic Holmes from the City of Rathdrum.

2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Dick Edinger made a motion to approve the December 6, 2007 meeting minutes. Mr. James Mangan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments –

4. Administrative Matters – Glenn Miles

Vouchers 4a - 4d

Mr. Marv Lekstrum made a motion to approve the payments:

- a) KMPO Vouchers for November 2007 in the amount of \$5,335.46.**
- b) KCATT Transportation Plan – Key 9025 – November 2007 in the amount of \$362.67.**
- c) Huetter Corridor Study – Key 9170 – November 2007 in the amount of \$10,574.26.**
- d) SH 97 Study – Key 9770 – November 2007 in the amount of \$6,904.84.**

The motion was seconded by Mr. James Mangan and unanimously approved.

5. Public Transportation Reports.

a) Status Report on Citylink Service

Mr. Alan Eirls, Citylink Transportation Manager, passed out the monthly Citylink report to the Board and gave an update of ridership for the month of December. He mentioned that ridership has increased 63% since last December.

Mr. Dick Edinger asked Mr. Eirls if there had been any progress with a St. Maries connection on Hwy 3 or 97 over to Plummer using Citylink. Mr. Eirls stated that they are capable but were told they were not allowed because a system is already in place in that area.

Mr. Miles stated the 2008 Appropriations Bill signed by the President, which has funding in it for the Idaho Coalition to enable Citylink to build a maintenance building for their buses. Post Falls Highway District has allowed Citylink to use their grounds to store buses for security purposes and may have some property for Citylink to build a bus facility in the future.

Mr. Miles also addressed the comments made by a member of the public at last months meeting pertaining to Foster Street. Mr. Miles stated that this street is designated by the City of Coeur d'Alene as an Urban Collector on the Federal Functional Classification System; therefore it is appropriate to have a bus on this route. Mr. Miles indicated that he has discussed the public involvement process with Citylink and as route changes are made in the future it will be important to seek public comment. Citylink has agreed to do this. Mr. Dick Edinger suggested KMPO follow up on the complaint with a letter.

b) Status Report on KATS Service

Mr. Joe Crowe handed out the Kats-link report and gave an update of ridership in their area. He mentioned Rathdrum ridership was low. It was suggested by Mr. Vic Holmes

to run an article in the Rathdrum Newspaper informing the public KATs-link is free for them to use.

Mr. John Austin addressed the earlier question by Mr. Edinger concerning a transit connection to St. Maries. He mentioned that as part of the process last year when PAC coordinated transit operations, Benewah Area Transit was invited to the table, and did attend. At that time a Citylink route connection was offered to them to tie in with St. Maries and south to Plummer with no fee to ride. It has been their choice not to participate.

Mr. John Austin reported last year the Board approved for funding a senior recreation special needs bus acquired by the City of Coeur d'Alene and the bus will be available next week. A ceremony will be held on Friday, January 4th at 9:30 am at the Coeur d'Alene City Hall to dedicate the bus.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Miles stated in the appropriations bill that the President approved, the Federal Railroad Administration received funding authorization for the Rail Relocation and Improvement Program that KMPO has been hoping would be approved for quite some time. \$20 million was approved and none is earmarked, so it is all available as grant money (grants will be 90% federal funds, 10% local match). Now that the President has signed the budget, this appropriations bill goes back to the federal agencies that received funding in the bill, so they can make the funds available.

Mr. Miles reminded the Board about the local rural program and the three-year hiatus rule at Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC). He mentioned that East Side Highway District is now eligible to apply. Mr. Miles also reminded the Board that Lakes Highway District, Worley Highway District and the City of Rathdrum are still not eligible this year, but will be next year.

7. KCATT Recommendations – no recommendations were given

8. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Administrative Amendment No. 1

Mr. Miles stated that after the KMPO Board approved the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Idaho Transportation Board moved a few projects around and provided money and a program for US 95 from Highway 53 to Ohio match. The Board packet contains an administrative amendment to include this project in the TIP, so as to be a mirror image to what is in the STIP, which is a Federal requirement.

Mr. Rick Currie made a motion to approve the Administrative Amendment No. 1 in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. James Mangan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

9. Other Business.

a) Retention Agreement with Arthur B. Macomber, Attorney

Mr. Humphreys presented the retention agreement with Arthur B. Macomber, Attorney and asked the Board for their thoughts on Mr. Macomber being legal council for KMPO.

A few members expressed their approval and have worked with Mr. Macomber before and noted that he is very knowledgeable with KMPO.

Mr. Dick Edinger made a motion to accept Arthur B, Macomber, Attorney as KMPO's legal council. Mr. James Mangan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) Enhancement Project Process

Carole Richardson updated the Board on the enhancement project process. The applications for the enhancement program are due to the MPO by the end of the month and so at this month's KCATT meeting there will be a discussion on how to review and prioritize the applications. She stated that the MPO has the opportunity to rank them before they go to the statewide committee. KCATT's recommended priorities will be provided to the Board in the March meeting packet.

c) US 95 Access Study Subcommittee – Nomination of KMPO member to replace Dixie Reid as subcommittee chair

Mr. Mangan suggested having someone from Lakes Highway District or Coeur d'Alene, who are directly affected by this study, to Chair the subcommittee. Mr. Marv Lekstrum volunteered to replace Ms. Dixie Reid as subcommittee Chair.

d) Regional Transportation Authorities Legislation

Mr. Miles reminded the Board that last month Mr. Matt Stahl presented on the regional transportation authorities legislation. At that time it was requested by the Board to have the proposed legislation sent to them for them to review.

Mr. Clay Larkin stated that after reading through the regional transportation authorities legislation document he would not be able to support this proposed legislation in its current form. There was some discussion and many of the Board members were in agreement with Mr. Larkin's concerns with the legislation.

e) Post Falls Highway District Letter of Support Request

Ms. Christine Fueston advised the Board that the Post Falls Highway District is applying for funds through LHTAC for the continuation of the Prairie Avenue widening project.

She passed out copies of the application with a map and explained the specifications and the need to continue forward with the next section of the widening project.

There was a short question and answer period pertaining to this project.

Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion for KMPO Board to support a letter to LHTAC for funding the Post Falls Highway District Prairie Avenue widening project. Mr. Marv Lekstrum seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Edinger abstained from voting.

10. Board Member Items.

Mr. Dick Edinger stated the Fernan Lake Road article in today's paper is inaccurate information and to take it with a grain of salt.

Mr. Al Hassell expressed his pleasure to be on the KMPO Board.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Jennifer Wash
Recording Secretary