

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
April 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
Jimmie Dorsey	East Side Highway District
Marv Lekstrum	Lakes Highway District
Damon Allen	Idaho Transportation Department
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Rick Currie	Kootenai County

Board Members Absent:

Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe
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Staff Present:

Carole Richardson, Transp. Planning Engineer
Jeff Selle, Manager of Government Affairs
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 March Meeting Minutes.

Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the March 6, 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. Al Hassell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments –

Matthew Hall, a member of the community and Boy Scouts asked the Board as a service to the community, as well earning his Eagle Scout merit, if he could build benches on some of the key Citylink routes A or B and what the process would be to get this approval.

Mr. Larkin congratulated Mr. Hall for his efforts for an Eagle Scout. The Board made various suggestions which entailed for the most part to coordinate with Citylink and the cities involved to obtain permission to proceed with the project.

4. Administrative Matters – Carole Richardson

Vouchers 4a – 4d

Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to approve the payments:

- a) KMPO Vouchers for February 2008 in the amount of \$26,510.50.**
- b) KCATT Transportation Plan – Key 9025 – December 2007 and February 2008 in the amount of \$273.67.**
- c) Huetter Corridor Study – Key 9170 – February 2008 in the amount of \$768.44**
- d) SH-97 Study – Key 9770 – February 2008 in the amount of \$4,005.21.**

The motion was seconded by Mr. Marv Lekstrum and unanimously approved.

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 March. It was reported that ridership increased 5,000 since last month. Mr. Currie mentioned with ridership increased as well as more routes, the maintenance impacts on the buses have also increased. Mr. Eirls discussed the plans for maintenance and mentioned Citylink will receive new buses to replace the well used ones. He also reported Citylink has received two FTA Grants; one for a maintenance facility, and one for an on demand system and two shelters.

b) Status Report on KATS Service

Ms. Helen Stephens, Manager, handed out the Kats-link report and gave an update of ridership in their area. She stated ridership was steady this month and also mentioned they were closed two days for training. Ms. Stephens passed along a comment made by a gentleman from their training that Citylink has a great driver in their area that is highly sensitive to the riders needs and he was very impressed with Citylink's service.

Mr. Vic Holmes thanked KATS for making an effort in advertising bus services for Rathdrum and asked if they could have schedules available to the public at Rathdrum City Hall.

6. Director's Report

Ms. Richardson explained that new automobile emission control legislation related to ground-level ozone had been enacted earlier in the week. Ozone is formed when

gasoline vapors, vehicle emissions and other chemicals react with sunlight. The federal air quality standards for acceptable ozone levels have just been lowered by the EPA. The new Idaho law sets an even lower ozone standard for the state (85% of the federal standard) and requires some counties in Idaho to implement a vehicle emissions testing program. Kootenai County is subject to this new law.

Ms. Richardson introduced Mr. Jeff Selle, Manager of Government Affairs, who came to the meeting to explain the situation with the legislative process and some of the implications of new law.

Mr. Selle stated that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality contacted KMPO on March 27th to inquire about briefing our board on the new motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program that would be established pursuant to a new law that was passed by the Idaho Legislature. The law was designed to prevent metropolitan areas from exceeding new federal standards for ground-level ozone. This was the first that KMPO had heard of this effort to establish such a system in Kootenai County, and at the time of DEQ's contact, the bill had already passed both House and Senate and had been sent to the Governor.

After some discussion, Mr. Selle said he discovered the bill had not yet been signed by the Governor. He contacted the Governor's office in Coeur d'Alene to find out what the new law was all about. Mark Compton of the Governor's office told him that the Governor was not completely satisfied with the bill either, and Mr. Compton suggested that KMPO submit written comments to his office no later than March 31st. KMPO staff worked through the weekend researching the issue and wrote a letter spelling out our concerns with the law. Despite KMPO's comments, the Governor signed the bill into law, citing the need to establish a vehicle emissions testing program in southern Idaho, but added that he was willing to amend the law to address our concerns in the upcoming 2009 legislative session.

KMPO staff has since met with DEQ to discuss possible alternatives to the Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance system. Staff has learned that there are other opportunities for our region to reduce ozone causing emissions without having to set up such a program. Mr. Selle also explained that DEQ was still sorting through how it planned to implement the new program throughout the urbanized area of the state.

Board members expressed frustration concerning the lack of communication from sponsors of the bill, and the short legislative timeline that prevented KMPO from participating in development of the bill and engaging local legislators on the issue. Members of the KMPO board then asked staff to set up a Special meeting as soon as possible with DEQ to address this issue in more detail.

Ms. Richardson apprised the Board that the state is experiencing serious funding shortfalls in the outer years of the six-year transportation improvement program. This month, the Idaho Transportation Board will be considering a proposal to eliminate funding for Enhancement and CMAQ projects in 2011-2013, to help address funding shortfalls in other programs such as pavement preservation.

Ms. Richardson mentioned that comments on the first section of the MTP update are due on April 22nd. Staff brought hard copies to the meeting in case Board members need them. Once KCATT and Board comments are incorporated, staff will post each chapter on the KMPO website for public review.

Ms. Richardson also announced that a kickoff meeting for the Public Transportation Roundtable group is scheduled for next week on April 8, from 2 to 4 pm at the Coeur d'Alene library.

7. KCATT Recommendations –

Mr. Jeff Zaugg presented information from the past KCATT meeting about the Lancaster Project. Their recommendation to the Board is to allocate \$1 million of the the \$3 million to the Lancaster/Government Way Interchange and the remaining \$2 million will be decided on at a later date.

The consensus of the Board was a complete financial plan and schedule is needed for the Government Way alignment before the Board considers reassigning funds to the project. Mr. Humphreys polled each member of the Board to see if they were ready to proceed with the proposal. A 'No' response meant this recommendation should be tabled.

Currie – no; Allen – no, until he sees a draft MOU about proportional share; Larkin – no, need further information; Hassell – no; Lekstrum – no, need to see the concept of the project; Gable – no, need further information; Holmes – no; Mangan – no

8. Other Business

a) US95 Access Study – Consultant Selection

Ms. Carole Richardson reported that in their packets was a US95 Access Study Consultant Selection Contractor Agreement to retain David Evans and Associates. There were four proposals received: Kittleson and Associates, Ruen-Yeager and Associates, HDR and David Evans and Associates. She stated that it was a difficult decision because they were all very qualified. The sub-committee for this study recommends selecting David Evans and Associates, based on their prior experience and work previously done on the corridor.

b) US95 Cooperative Agreement

The Cooperative Agreement for funding the US95 study is nearly final. It still needs to be approved by ITD, City of Coeur d'Alene and City of Hayden.

Minor changes were made to the Contractor Agreement and Cooperative Agreement by the KMPO attorney. The revised agreements were given to the Board and Ms. Richardson went through the changes with them.

Mr. Damon Allen made a motion to approve the Contract Agreement and Cooperative Agreement (pending final administrative changes) to move forward with the David Evans and Associates to conduct the US 95 Access Study. Mr. Humphreys clarified that if there are significant administrative or legal changes to the cooperative agreement as it is finalized, the Board should be apprised. Mr. Vic Holmes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

9. Board Member Items

Mr. Anson Gable asked if the KMPO Board would hear more on from DEQ on the Vehicle Emission Legislation. He stated that it would be very important to have more dialogue on this matter.

Mr. Al Hassell asked for electronic copies of the revised copies of the Contractor and Cooperative Agreements to give to the Coeur d'Alene City Council to review.

Mr. Clay Larkin reported that the Centennial Trail Foundation has asked him to request officially funding for a bicycle bath. Mr. Larkin had asked if this bicycle path design had been taken out of the Garvee Funding.

Mr. Allen stated that he would have to do some research to find out more information on this matter and report back. Mr. Allen mentioned concerns on the CMAQ/Enhancement programs being taken away and the money used only for paving.

There was further discussion on the CMAQ/Enhancement Programs and the lack of funding. Mr. Humphreys stated that local jurisdictions have used the CMAQ program in the past for paving. He asked, if the CMAQ program funds are moved to increase funding for pavement preservation, will any of the pavement funds be available to local jurisdictions? Mr. Allen responded that the funds would go into ITD's Pavement Preservation program, and would be spent on facilities normally funded by that program.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Jennifer Wash
Recording Secretary