

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
June 5, 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
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
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 May Meeting Minutes.

Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the May 1, 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments – Mr. John Robideaux, (664-4802) made a statement concerning items that came from the May 20, 2008 US95 Access Study meeting. He stated he was here to emphasize concerns on behalf of himself and 32 other business owners. Some concerns were of the past mention of the closing of medians along SH95. He stated that business owners had talked with John Mchugh previously and had understood that US95 would not be studied further. It is to his understanding that today ITD has set aside money to study the closing of medians along US95 and he states that US95 has been studied too much and it is time to move on. Mr. Robideaux emphasized that the

business owners want to make cost effective recommendations that can be done currently that might help move the traffic North or South on US95. He made suggestions on how or where to close medians and look for a system on traffic lights that would be a cost effective solution to move traffic quicker and have a presentation given to the public on this possible solution. He also listed the current problems of traffic lights on 95 and the delays it creates.

Mr. Humphrey thanked Mr. Robideaux for sharing his concerns and as a Board they will be looking into the suggestions or items that he commented on.

Mr. Robideaux stated he was speaking on behalf of the business owners and thanked the CdA Chamber and KMPO for putting on meetings for the public. Mr. Humphreys noted that Mr. Robideaux's assistance in spreading the word about future meetings to the businesses he represents will be appreciated.

4. Administrative Matters – Carole Richardson

Vouchers 4a – 4c

Mr. Al Hassell made a motion to approve the payments:

- a) KMPO Vouchers for April 2008 in the amount of \$44,683.84.**
- b) KCATT Transportation Plan – Key 9025 – April 2008 in the amount of \$414.42.**
- c) Huetter Corridor Study – Key 9170 – April 2008 in the amount of \$9,297.11.**
- d) US 97 Study – Key 9770 – March and April 2008 in the amount of \$23,942.05**

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jimmie Dorsey and unanimously approved.

a) Status Report on Citylink Service

Mr. Alan Eirls, Citylink Transportation Manager, handed out the Citylink report and updated the Board on ridership for the month of May. He mentioned there were a few minor complaints that related to littering at some spots. Citylink provided garbage cans at these stops to help with littering. He also reported they are expecting two new buses this summer.

Mr. Currie asked if Citylink is doing any advertising in reference to gas savings. Mr. Eirls stated that there was an ad that ran in the paper that shared schedule changes and made reference to the rising fuel costs. He also stated that other advertising emphasizing the increase of fuel costs will be done in this area to increase ridership.

Mr. Al Hassell suggested putting Citylink's web address on the bus signs at each bus stop for further contact information for the public. Mr. Eirls stated that it may be possible to use a sticker on existing signs for this.

b) Status Report on KATS Service

Ms. Helen Stephens handed out the KATS-Link report and gave an update of ridership for the month of May. She stated that ridership is up and they are undergoing some reorganization to cut down costs in house. As far as advertising they have some things waiting her approval that will be going out in every area.

Mr. Larkin recalled that Ms. Nancy DiGiamaarco from Silverwood came to the Board previously, asking if Citylink would be able to create a route that would take young employees to the park. He asked if Citylink had made contact with Silverwood representatives to come up with a solution.

Mr. Eirls stated that current equipment and financial resources do not allow Citylink to extend to Silverwood. He has mentioned that to Ms. DiGiamaarco that it would not be possible to achieve this at this point without additional funding.

Ms. Stephens reported that she has provided several options to Ms. DiGiamaarco for transporting Silverwood employees, but Silverwood has not taken advantage of these offers. She has asked to have flyers be placed in employee paychecks to advertise the service but not have had much of a response.

6. Director's Report

Ms. Carole Richardson reported that Mr. Glenn Miles was able to get additional money from the Urban Balancing meeting in May. He managed to get \$220,000 for preliminary design of the next segment of Government Way from Dalton to Hanley; \$120,000 to help Lakes Highway District coordinate their design of Lancaster with the Cities plans for realignment of the Government Way/Lancaster intersection; and \$250,000 for the City of Post Falls to cover retroactive inflation costs that they were entitled to.

Ms. Richardson spoke on the US95 Access Study Public meeting on May 20th and stated that comments received at the meeting will be compiled and considered when the Steering Committee evaluates the different options for US95.

Volume trends were sent to KCATT and nationwide traffic volumes have been down for the first four months of the year compared to last year. There is some speculation that the high gas prices have something to do with this drop, however the difficult winter may also have had much to do with trip reductions in the first three months of the year. Rural area volumes are down ranging from 3 to 10% and in Urban areas are down ranging from 4 to 8%.

**7. KCATT Recommendations –
a. Redistribution of the Lancaster Funds**

Chair Jeff Zaugg explained the recommendations that were agreed upon at the KCATT meeting for approval. They were as follows:

Priority 1: Government Way; Dalton to Hanley with funding totaling \$1,220M

Priority 2: Huetter Hardship and Protective Right of Way Acquisition with total funding \$1,067M

Priority 3: Government Way/Lancaster Intersection with total funding \$120K

Priority 4: Hanley Avenue; Government Way to 4th with funding totaling \$933K

Priority 5: Mullan Widening and Overlay with funding totaling \$250K

Total funding for all prioritized projects came to \$3,590M with \$3M of this from Lancaster interchange money. The remaining \$590K is additional money that Mr. Miles secured at the May Urban Balancing meeting.

Mr. Larkin stated that he has to reject money distribution of Huetter because he feels there are other projects that could be completed such as the Greensferry Interchange prior to the Huetter annexation going into effect.

The Board discussed the Huetter right of way proposal at length. There were concerns that the money for Huetter would not be used by 2011 and also the ability to come up with matching funds from each jurisdiction for the project. Ms. Richardson indicated that there was not an immediate urgency for Board action on this item, and if the Board wished to postpone a decision on KCATT's recommendation so that they had time to think it over, it would not be a problem.

Mr. James Mangan made a motion that the KCATT reconsider and take another look at the projects giving another thought of what could be spent in the 2011 time frame. Mr. Jimmie Dorsey seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

b. KMPO Model Policy

Mr. Jeff KCATT recommends that for Board consideration the new KMPO model policy be placed on the website for a 30 day public comment period. Afterward KCATT requests that the Board place the policy on the July Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Al Hassell made a motion to approve the KMPO Model Policy to go out for public comment. Mr. Vic Holmes seconded the motion which was approved with all present with the exception of Mr. Rick Currie who voted nay.

8. Other Business

a) Executive Summary

Mr. John Austin asked for any comments or questions concerning the Executive Summary on Public Transit that was given to the Board members in their packets.

Mr. Larkin stated that Mr. Krause had contacted him and stated that he and Randy Kyrias will be in Coeur d'Alene on the 18th of June to talk about the coordination on Mobility. Mr. Larkin's question is how does this play into public transportation?

Mr. Austin stated that we want to be involved and be part of the process for anything that affects the urbanized area.

b) County Vehicle Registration Fee Proposal

Mr. Joe Wuest from Lakes Highway District passed out a Kootenai County Vehicle Registration Fee proposal that KCATT has been discussing. KCATT determined that before they go any further it would be best to inform the Board of the information in the proposal and discuss the details together. Mr. Wuest explained the proposal and emphasized the need to put this on the November ballot to allow the voters to approve the registration fee that will help improve roads or decide not to.

Mr. Rick Currie voiced his concern on having two taxing items on the ballot, the other taxing item being the expansion of the county jail. He stated that history shows that if both were on the ballot both would fail. Mr. Clay Larkin commented that he felt the voters should be allowed to make that decision.

There was a short discussion concerning fees and the Board suggested having the Chair of the Associated Highway Districts, Mr. James Mangan, call for a special meeting of the Highway Districts to discuss the proposal in a timely matter to achieve possibly getting this item on the ballot.

c) SH97 Study Update

Ms. Christine Fueston and Mr. John Karpenko updated the Board on the SH97 Study, including proposed SH97 safety improvements, a practical capacity analysis that examines how much more growth the highway can serve, and funding options. Ms. Fueston reported that they are having a public open house next Tuesday June 10th at Harrison Elementary from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The overall consensus of the study is to keep it at a local roadway which is a scenic byway designation with minor safety improvements. Mr. Karpenko presented exhibits showing some of the more significant safety improvements proposed. He also explained a possible ferry route and the costs to make this happen.

Ms. Fueston commented that after the exhibits and information are presented at the public open house next Tuesday the study team will look at funding options and then bring final recommendations to the Board for a recommendation. Another last public open house is planned to present the final recommendations. She handed out a technical memorandum that shows practical capacity on SH97. The draft study document was also given to the Board for their reference on levels of service, capacity, traffic data and accident data.

Ms. Carole Richardson stated to the Board that KMPO suspects the capacity analysis will be controversial, and emphasized that it is a final draft document. The draft capacity analysis is also going to KCATT for review, and Ms. Richardson asked the Board to use the next month to have staff answer any questions that they may have, before the document is published.

There was a short question and answer period from the Board.

Mr. Vic Holmes and Mr. Clay Larkin had to leave to meet prior engagements.

d) Huetter Corridor Update

Ms. Carole Richardson met with Post Falls Highway District and the district's attorney to come up with language for the Highway District to recommend adoption of the Huetter Right of Way Map. Since the Highway District itself is not a land use agency they won't be adopting the map, but instead providing a resolution in support of the Corridor. KMPO will be approaching Lakes Highway District with this as well in the near future.

e) Air Quality Update

Mr. Jeff Selle mentioned the White Paper that was provided to the Board in their packets. It is an eleven page report on the new air quality legislation that was passed by the legislature. The new law requires metropolitan areas within Idaho that reach 85% of federal air quality standards to implement an automobile emissions inspection and maintenance program. At the request of the board, KMPO Staff did extensive research on this issue and developed alternative recommendations for addressing air quality without having to resort to an emissions testing program. The paper essentially explains how inspection and maintenance are being phased out all over the country because the programs are no longer as cost effective as they used to be. In fact, Mr. Selle explained Washington will be phasing out their emissions by 2019. Instead of creating a new inspection and maintenance program in Kootenai County, KMPO staff is recommending that the board adopt five alternatives.

Here are the five staff recommendations to move this issue forward:

1. To obtain an independent third party opinion on the number of monitors and locations recommended for doing inventory on air quality in Kootenai County.
2. Request that DEQ provide air inventory preparation plan for KMPO to review prior to beginning the work.

3. Provide a standing agenda item on the KMPO Policy Board meetings for regular reports from DEQ
4. Support and monitor KMPO staff efforts to update the KMPO regional travel demand model that it may be used to help estimate air quality impacts from mobile sources.
5. Consider moving forward with local legislation and the county commissioners to begin a stage one vapor recovery program in Kootenai County.

f) MTP Update

Ms. Carole Richardson provided section 2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Board's review. She reminded the Board that Section 1 was the section that had key policy issues and also provided to the Board was a map with priority corridors. The map shows the priority corridors that are recommended for major system expansion and she advised that this will need to be discussed in detail at the July Board meeting.

9. Board Member Items

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Jennifer Wash
Recording Secretary