

MEETING MINUTES

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board Meeting
February 5, 2009
Idaho Transportation Department District 1 Headquarters
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Board Members in Attendance:

Jimmie Dorsey, Chair	East Side Highway District
Clay Larkin, Vice Chair	City of Post Falls
Marv Lekstrum	Lakes Highway District
Damon Allen	Idaho Transportation Department
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Lynn Humphreys	Post Falls Highway District
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Al Hassell	City of Coeur d'Alene

Board Members Absent:

Rick Currie	Kootenai County
Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Staff Present:

Carole Richardson, Transportation Planning Engineer
Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Donna Lively, Administrative Assistant
Ryan Stewart, Sr. Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board was called to order by Chair, Jimmie Dorsey at 1:30 pm.

2. Approval of January Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Vic Holmes made a motion to approve the January 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Mr. Marv Lekstrum seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments.

Mr. Todd Whipple with Whipple Consulting Engineers, Inc. stated that he had a presentation regarding the US95 Study and was representing landowners located on Bosanko Road. Mr. Dorsey stated that the public comment period has expired, but gave Mr. Whipple permission to provide Board members a handout. Mr. Whipple stated

that the landowners and tenants off Bosanko were only made aware of the US95 proposed changes via the December 13, 2008 article in the Coeur d'Alene Press. He added that his services were retained on December 19th to review the overall study and that all the technical documents related to the study were not obtained until January 15th. Mr. Whipple stated that there appears to be significant flaws in the study in that all the trips that crossed the intersections proposed for removal were not included as well as adequate readjustment of trips to the intersections retained. Mr. Whipple was advised that the public comment period had ended and that the Board would take action on the recommendations today, which would then be forwarded to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Board for action at their February 18th meeting. Mr. Whipple stated that he and his clients would be present at the ITD Board meeting to express their views.

Mr. Mark Walden with Fastlube, Inc. stated that he surveyed tenants and residents along Bosanko and found that no one was aware of the proposed changes to Bosanko. He added that neither he (a business tenant) nor the landowners received written notification of the proposed changes, but were made aware from the newspaper article. He stated that he had safety issues with left hand turns being made into the Fred Meyer parking lot in the absence of a traffic light at Bosanko, given the volume of traffic on US95. He asked the Board whether or not they had received his letter of opposition and questioned how the study was done and the public notice method used.

Mr. Peter Cooper stated that he has followed the US95 issue for some time and that it's design is a farce. He stated that he has long championed the cause of public transportation, light rail, and street cars, and that his railway company can design, build and operate an intermodal corridor along US95 for \$90 Million—eliminating the need for street lights and revisions to US95. He added that the proposed revisions to US95 would be a waste of taxpayer money.

4. Administrative Matters – Glenn Miles

Voucher 4a

Mr. Lynn Humphreys made a motion to approve the payments:

- a) KMPO Vouchers for December 2008 in the amount of \$46,091.66.**

KCATT Transportation Plan Update – Key 9025 for October-December 2008 in the amount of \$2,248.29.

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

b) Board Member Travel Approval

It was requested that the Board approve travel for Mr. Jimmie Dorsey to travel to Boise on Monday, February 09, 2009, to attend Chamber Day, and Mr. Marv Lekstrum to

travel to Boise on Wednesday, February 17 to attend the ITD Board Meeting on the 18th in support of the US95 Study Recommendations.

Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to approve reimbursement for travel for both Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Lekstrum to Boise on February 9 and 17 respectively. Mr. Al Hassell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5. Public Transportation

a) Public Transportation Roundtable Report.

Mr. John Austin reported that he had recently been selected as Vice-Chair of the Roundtable. He reported on what was discussed at the January 13 meeting, which included:

- An update on Idaho's Mobility Access Plan (IMAP); IMAP is intended to coordinate transportation projects within various counties and districts, but outside of metropolitan areas.
- The Post Falls Chamber's public transportation Bench and Shelter Committee is actively examining bench/shelter needs at existing bus stops, as well as the insurance and maintenance needs for them.
- Mr. Ryan Stewart reviewed a white paper he prepared outlining the feasibility, legislative history, and funding constraints in establishing a Regional Public Transportation Authority in the State of Idaho.
- The announcement of the KMPO Non-motorized Transportation Plan kick-off meeting at the Coeur d'Alene, scheduled for February 10 at 10:30 am.
- A discussion regarding the stimulus package transportation project list.

b) Status Report on Citylink Service – Alan Eirls

Mr. Alan Eirls handed out the Citylink report and updated the Board on ridership for the month of January. Ridership is up well over last month, up 8,000 over January last year, but down from the peak month of October. The increase is attributed to clearer access to stops and better weather. The C route has the most ridership, having a two-way run and servicing almost all the shopping centers. The north/south link has the next largest ridership. The rural area still has not rebounded. He reported that tomorrow morning at 11:00 am Citylink, along with various city officials, are meeting with SRM regarding the temporary site for the transit facility by Riverstone development. He added that the Tribe should not have to pay for the full cost of the site.

c) Status Report on KATS Service – Joe Crowe

Ms. Helen Stephens handed out the KATS-Link report. She noted that numbers are beginning to climb again.

d) Financial Report – John Austin

Mr. John Austin provided a budget information handout to the Board. He noted that it reflects the same numbers as last year and that they are able to maintain the same operations and services as last year despite the economy. The same demand response provider, KCATS, has also been procured for the same dollar amount, despite increase costs. The Cities' share was also included in the handout and although Board members cannot commit their city to the stated amount, they want to put the budget info into the grant and get the agreements to the cities as usual and as quickly as possible due to potential stimulus money coming through. Mr. Clay Larkin asked whether cities having different budget cycles than the grant cycle can still count on the budget figures provided. Mr. Austin replied that the budget figures would remain the same.

Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the proposed budget figures for fiscal year 2009. Mr. Lynn Humphreys seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

e) Transit Center Study Update – Ryan Stewart

Mr. Ryan Stewart reported that the RFP Evaluation Committee completed their Transit Center Location Study contract selection process and has selected The Land Group, Inc., in partnership with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., a national transportation consulting firm, to perform the study. KMPO staff recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Director, Glenn Miles, to negotiate and execute the contract in an amount not to exceed \$51,550.00

Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to award the Transit Center Location Study contract as presented to the Board to The Land Group, Inc., not to exceed \$51,550.00. Mr. Lynn Humphreys seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. KCATT Recommendations – Kevin Howard

a) 2010 Appropriations Earmark Requests

Chair Kevin Howard reported that a preliminary project list for 2010 Appropriations Earmarks was assembled based on suggestions from public transportation partners and KCATT members. At their January 27 meeting, KCATT further prioritized the list based on whether the project was multi-jurisdictional, had broad community support, was tangible, could be delivered in three years, and whether matching funds were likely. The project list was then categorized by transit projects and roadway projects. Mr.

Howard emphasized that these projects are separate from the stimulus project list and that any earmark funds received would need to have local matching funds of up to 20%. KCATT recommends the Board approve the list of potential earmark requests and authorize staff to discuss these project needs with the Idaho Congressional delegation. Mr. Miles provided a brief overview of the prioritized project list to the Board.

Mr. Lynn Humphreys made a motion to approve the list of potential Earmark Transportation Projects and authorize staff to discuss these projects with the Idaho Congressional delegation. Mr. Al Hassell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

7. Director's Report – Glenn Miles

Mr. Glenn Miles reported that Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is in the preliminary rulemaking process in response to the state's new ozone standard. As currently defined, the standard is limited to Ada and Canyon Counties. Mr. Miles stated that neither KMPO nor DEQ were satisfied with the precursor study conducted out on the prairie and concur with local legislators to either repeal the legislation or permit more latitude with regard to the standard (similar to the federal standard) or, give local jurisdictions the ability to address the problem without dictating an inspection and maintenance solution.

Mr. Miles reported that an Advisory Group Kick-off Meeting for the KMPO Non-Motorized Plan is scheduled for February 10 at 10:30 am at the Coeur d'Alene Library. Advocates for non-motorized transportation modes were invited to attend and participate. Local jurisdictions have been interviewed as to what they have done and are doing for non-motorized means of transportation, which will serve as a baseline for the study.

Mr. Miles stated that KMPO staff will travel to Washington DC next week to attend the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) Annual Meeting. He noted that they will gain a better understanding of the forthcoming stimulus bill at that time. Staff is also interested in the 2010 Appropriations Bill Cycle and in finding out how the stimulus bill will affect the next reauthorization bill, which is due to expire this fall. Mr. Miles stated that staff will be meeting with Washington and Idaho delegates there as well.

8. Other Business

a) US95 – David Evans and Associates (DEA) Contract Amendment

Mr. Miles reported that additional support work by DEA is needed to assist with final community and business outreach. This extra work was not anticipated in the approved scope of work. So that DEA's expertise can be used as needed on a time and materials basis to engage and respond to final community issues, the Board is asked to approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000. The Board is also asked to approve a contract time

extension for the study to February 27, 2009, due to the inclement weather received in December and meeting postponements as a result.

Mr. Jim Mangan made a motion to approve the DEA Contract amendments as proposed. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

b) US95 Study Recommendations

Mr. Glenn Miles reminded the Board that an extensive amount of time and resources have been put into the study and ample public notice and participation provided, including an extension due to December's inclement weather. He noted that the ITD Board had enough votes to close all unsignalized crossings on US95 from I-90 to Hwy 53.

The steering committee has concluded their study and has provided their recommendations for Board action. Mr. Clay Larkin stated that should the Board approve these recommendations today, the Board does not have the final say in what ITD chooses to do with these recommendations. Those present who oppose the recommendations may address the ITD Board at their February 18th meeting.

Mr. Clay Larking made a motion to approve the recommendations of the US95 Access Study as presented. Mr. Anson Gable seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

c) Potential Stimulus Projects

Mr. Glenn Miles updated the Board on the status of the Economic Stimulus Project to date. The bill has yet to pass both the House and the Senate and receive President Obama's signature. Mr. Miles stated that all projects must include a completed 1414 form and a 25-point checklist and be submitted with supporting documentation to expedite the evaluation process. Projects can then be placed in a matrix to determine which ones are "shovel ready." ITD has agreed to handle all submitted projects on a first-come, first-served basis. Those lacking required information/documentation will be returned to the jurisdiction for completion. Required paperwork for the project development process would still be submitted to the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) for coordination with ITD. Mr. Miles noted that a state and local agreement will be required for each stimulus project as ITD will not be providing construction project management services for the federally-funded projects. Local jurisdictions will be required to provide or secure these services in order to meet federal audit standards.

Mr. Damon Allen concurred with Mr. Miles stating that all stimulus-funded projects will be treated the same as those receiving federal aid and must be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He noted that the extensive front end work being required is necessary in order for projects to be queued in the STIP for ITD's

authorization to proceed. Mr. Miles reported that the illustrative list of unfunded transportation projects has already been published in the Coeur d'Alene Press in order to meet the federally required public comment period. He noted projects poised to receive stimulus funds are currently being screened to meet all requirements and that ITD will receive a pre-screened list of projects from KMPO by March 1, 2009.

d) TIP Amendment No. 2

Mr. Miles explained that ITD's STIP for 2009-2013 included funding for the "Safe Routes to Schools" program as a lump sum. After the STIP was adopted, individual projects were selected for this small safety program.

The Coeur d'Alene School District was awarded a small Safe Routes to Schools project for an education and awareness program. ITD has asked that we administratively adjust KMPO's five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this new project. Staff recommends the Board approve this TIP Amendment No. 2.

Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the KMPO TIP Amendment No. 2 as presented. Mr. Vic Holmes seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

9. Board Member Items

Mr. Larkin reported that Congress has passed a \$38 Billion Child Health Insurance Bill, which would be funded in part from a gasoline tax. He inquired as to what effect it might have on state transportation projects and how state legislatures might handle this. He also announced his discovery of an upcoming public hearing on the Back Road interchange scheduled for February 20th at 10 am at ITD. Mr. Damon Allen clarified that the public hearing is only regarding the agreement between ITD and the developer and would not be a forum to discuss the merits of the project. Mr. Larkin noted that the City of Post Falls is an interested party with regard to the agreement.

Mr. Lynn Humphreys noted that he thought that with regard to the Children's Health Bill, the funding would come from a tobacco tax, or a combination of the two.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Donna Lively
Recording Secretary