

**Okanogan Council of Governments/  
Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

**February 14, 2022 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm**

**(253) 215 8782; Meeting ID 567 598 6383; Passcode: 879865; or link:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/5675986383?pwd=ckl1cmIWMTIDR3NlVhInNlTVXQ3UT09>**

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**Present:** Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor – OCOG Chairman  
Chris Branch, Okanogan County Commissioner – OCOG Vice Chairman  
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County Engineer – OCOG Treasurer  
Brent Timm, TranGO Acting General Manager - OCOG Secretary  
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board  
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member  
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor  
Holly Bange, City of Pateros, Council Member  
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member  
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member  
Tim Rieb, City of Brewster, Council Member  
Jimmer Tillman, Town of Elmer City, Public Works  
Shawn Davisson, City of Okanogan, Public Works  
Jennifer Fitzthum, Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition, Executive Director  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director  
Maxwell Nelson, WSDOT, Planner  
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Regional Liaison

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**Welcome/Role Call**

Chairman Jon Neal welcomed everyone to the meeting; roll call was taken.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Additions:** None

**Deletions:** None

**Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

**Motion:**

Council Member Tim Rieb moved to approve the January 10, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Brent Timm and passed unanimously.

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**Update: Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Josh Thomson reported there has been a total of \$3,151 spent so far with a little over \$1,000 of that spent in January for advertising.

**Update: Secretary Report**

Secretary Brent Timm reported a Selection Committee was formed to review the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) submitted regarding the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP), which was up for action on tonight's Agenda. In addition, the RFQ's for the OCOG/RTPO Administrative Support position closed on February 8, 2022. Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Josh Thomson reported he had not received any RFQ applications for that position.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Josh Thomson reported on the following:

- A State Transportation Funding Package is available and there are a few concerns at the local city/county levels as currently all the revenue is going directly to the State. Typically, a work group had been in place to decide where the money should go, but that hasn't happened; therefore, they have suggested to not skip that step.
- The Surface Transportation Program (STP) allocation has increased by 10% which is a little over an additional \$100,000.
- The local road projects are pretty quiet, but soon they will start working on a bridge project.

Commissioner/Vice Chairman Chris Branch reported on the following:

- The County's previous Prosecuting Attorney (PA) resigned, so they have contracted with an outside PA from Wahkiakum County until the end of year, at which time there will be an election.
- They are still discussing ARPA funds in detail and how to spend that money. The County does have its own projects they want to implement on their own and there has also been some requests from Social Service programs. There was approximately 8.2 million dollars awarded and they have been working with the Economic Alliance which can help businesses affected by Covid 19.

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- They finished their comprehensive plan which hasn't been challenged yet but could be. He stated some land use codes will change in the near future with water being an emphasis.

**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

WSDOT representative Maxwell Nelson reported on the following:

- They are still waiting on outputs for the State budget process which will have an impact on some of the work done by OCOG, but it is still in a holding pattern.
- This month a team will do a site-inspection of the Oroville Bridge due to an uneven bridge deck. They hope to have a contract in place this Spring to repair it.

WSDOT Regional Liaison Kate Tollefson reported on the following:

- WSDOT Public Transportation has an open Regional Mobility Grant for the 2023-2025 biennium. Eligible applicants are cities and counties as well as ports and public transit agencies. A concept, which is a statement of interest, is due to WSDOT by March 03, 2022, and the main grant application will be due this Spring. She provided the following link: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/business-wsdot/grants/public-transportation-grants/grant-programs-and-awards/regional-mobility>

**County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion**

Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management Director reported on the following:

- Covid-19 testing has moved from the Okanogan County Fairgrounds to the Okanogan Legion Park. Future testing dates will be on February 25, 2022, March 11, 2022, and March 25, 2022, from 11 am to 1pm.
- On the Emergency Management side of things, it has been pretty quiet. They are looking at some emergency evacuation routes in the Methow Valley.

**Action/Discussion: Consultant Selection for Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)**

Secretary Brent Timm reported OCOG received 3 proposals from Consultants which were Via Mobility, SCJ Alliance, and David Evans & Associates. A Selection Committee was formed, they met and scored SCJ Alliance at the top. Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Josh Thomson reported both Via Mobility and SCJ Alliance have a local consultant, Ara Swanson, out of the Methow area who handles the public

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outreach portion for them. The Committee agreed having someone local was important and that SCJ Alliance would be the best selection.

**Motion:**

Secretary Brent Timm moved to approve a contract with SCJ Alliance for the OCOG Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Chris Branch and passed unanimously.

**Discussion: Potential RTPO 101 Training Seminar with WSDOT**

Chairman Jon Neal reported he had a video meeting last week with WSDOT and many members may not be familiar with what a RTPO does. WSDOT will provide a training seminar of what a RTPO entails and after the current legislative session ends, they will provide some dates when they are available to conduct the training. It may be an approximate 1-hour session, which could either be virtual, in person or a mix of both, and could possibly provide the training during a regular OCOG meeting.

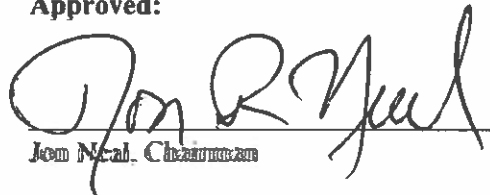
**Roundtable Updates**

Each agency represented is given a few moments, if they wished, to report to the group on important issues going on in their jurisdictions.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 5:33 pm.

**Approved:**

  
Jon Neal, Chairman

**Attested:**

  
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO Clerk of the Board