

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

August 10, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

Location: 303 2nd Ave S, Suite A, Okanogan, WA 98840 (TranGO Office)

Present: Soo Ing-Moody, Town of Twisp, Mayor – OCOG Chairperson
 Carlene Anders, City of Pateros, Mayor – OCOG Vice-Chairperson
 Josh Thomson, Okanogan County Engineer – OCOG Treasurer
 Kelly Scalf, TranGO CEO/General Manager - OCOG Secretary
 Jackie Gleason, TranGO, Clerk of the Board
 Chris Branch, Okanogan County Commissioner
 Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor
 Shawn Davisson, City of Okanogan, Public Works Director
 Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
 Marylou Kriner, City of Tonasket, Mayor
 Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Department of Emergency Management Director
 Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff
 George Mazur, WSDOT, Senior Planner
 Maxwell Nelson, WSDOT, Transportation Planning Specialist

Guests: Lorraine Ralston, Census Bureau

Call to Order

Chairwoman Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

Chairperson Ing-Moody welcomed everyone to the meeting; role call was taken.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions/Deletions/Changes: Chairperson Ing-Moody moved agenda item #10 up to item #4 on the agenda to accommodate attendee's schedules.

Coronavirus/COVID 19 Updates/Discussion:

Sheriff Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff's Office reported on the following:

- COVID calls have declined and are going mostly to the Health Department and Emergency Management.

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

- There will be voluntary county-wide COVID testing in various communities for individuals 3 years old and up. A swab will be provided to each person, they are asked to swab the inside of their cheek and put the swab in a container. The National Guard will be present to help with organization and data collection. All those tested will be contacted regardless of the results. The

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Department of Health is encouraging community leaders to be tested to set a good example. He stated that he worked with the National Guard to make this happen because of the high number of cases in the County.

- Emergency Management still has a lot of cloth masks available
- He reported that there was a quick response to the fire burning on the Reservation along SR155; the highway is open.

Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Branch moved to approve the July 13, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Scalf and passed unanimously.

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Thomson reported that approximately \$4,800 of the \$20,000 Administrative budget and \$8,500 of the \$50,000 Project budget had been expended to date. Thomson reported that he is currently working on the Transportation Improvement Plan for OCOG, due in October. He will bring the report to the Council at their next meeting for review.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Scalf reported that she has attended the MPO/RTPO meetings. A meeting held on August 11, 2020 in part, looked at the funding for the next State biennium, what the vision of how transits will look in the future and whether COVID could change public transit, especially the small rural transits. A group is being formed relating to coordination of engineering and social services, she suggested OCOG watch the work of this group and work with WSDOT.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Council Member Branch reported the Commissioners met with Department of Health representatives Laurie Jones and John McCarthy regarding COVID, then passed a proclamation committing to the buy-in by the Commissioners to back the Department of Health, sending a good straight forward message showing leadership.

Branch reported that there are CARES Act funding grants available for businesses through the Okanogan County Economic Alliance.

Branch spoke briefly about the school districts inability to reopen due to COVID and the increased need for better broadband capabilities for on line schooling.

Branch shared his gratitude for the firefighters and air support in getting several area fires knocked down quickly.

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Treasurer Thomson reported on upcoming County road work:

- Chip sealing is done for 2020
- 2021 work includes: Riverside to Pateros partnering with municipalities, south of Malott old highway, Park City Loop, bridge and guardrail work, bridge deck repairs, federal funding obtained for load rating work with municipalities; the federal grant match is 13.5%.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT Planner Nelson reported on the following work going on in Okanogan County:

- The chip seal near Pateros on Highway 97
- Culvert work on Waconda pass
- Washington Pass diversion; not sure if it is affecting travel
- Chip seal on bridges and roadway on Highway 153
- Highway 20 is reopened after a rock slide closed it down

Senior Planner Mazur reported on the following:

- Discussed NEPA regulations
- Encouraged OCOG to be involved in MPO/RTPO meetings

Update/Discussion: Backroads Study – Maptionnaire Participation

Treasurer Thomson reported that the participation in identifying major roadways in the Maptionnaire program set up by Hans Shepherd, SCJ has improved. Shepherd is in the process of evaluating and prioritizing roads, identifying access points and connectors; his results will then come back to the Council.

Chairwoman Ing-Moody asked the Council to start thinking about evaluation priorities.

Census Bureau Update

Lorraine Ralston, a representative from the Census Bureau was present to discuss the importance of getting citizens to participate in census reporting. Ralston reported that COVID has affected the census reporting. Currently 69.2% of Washington stated citizens have reported and 40.5% of Okanogan citizens have reported. There are 50 days left to report, reporting ends on September 30, 2020; door-to-door efforts beginning August 10, 2020.

Ms. Ralston asked for local elected officials and law enforcement help to educate people and to spread the word that census workers will be going door-to-door. She reported that they are currently working through schools and more mailings will go out.

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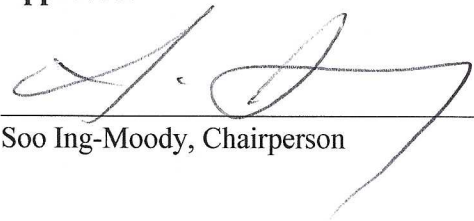
Roundtable Updates

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairperson Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Approved:



Soo Ing-Moody, Chairperson

Attested:



Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board