

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
August 14, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes - 5:00 p.m.  
303 S. Second Ave., Suite A, Okanogan, WA

(253) 215 8782; Meeting ID 929 2149 7263; Passcode: 716493; or link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/92921497263?pwd=TU1wZktBZHI4SOY2UHVuMTFIRiY3UT09>

Present: Jon Neal, Okanogan County, Commissioner - OCOG Chairman  
\*Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan, Mayor - OCOG Vice-Chair  
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County, Engineer - OCOG Treasurer  
\*Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager – OCOG Secretary  
\*Jackie Gleason, TranGO, Finance/HR Director  
Misty Ruiz, City of Brewster, Finance Director  
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member  
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor  
Jimmer Tillman, Elmer City, Public Works Director  
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member  
Alan Caswell, Town of Twisp, Council Member  
Bobby Watkins, OCTN, Operations Manager  
Ben Nelson, Town of Winthrop, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jennifer Fitzthum, OCTN, Executive Director  
\*Jeff Sarvis, Town of Winthrop, Public Works Director  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director  
Shaun Darveshi, WSDOT, North Central Region Planning Manager  
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Tribal and Regional Integrated Planning  
\*Brooke Bourn, Riverwalk Trail Project – Winthrop  
\*Rita Kenny, Riverwalk Trail Project - Winthrop

\*These participants attended in person

### **Call to Order/Welcome**

Chairman Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

#### **Motion:**

Vice-Chair Turner moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hook.

- Agenda
- Minutes from July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting

Chairman Neal called for the vote; the motion passed unanimously.

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**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Update: Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Thomson reported he has not submitted any invoices for the new biennium.

**Update: Secretary Report**

Secretary Brent Timm reported that he had received the funding notification for the WSDOT/RTPO OCOG Funding for SFY 2024-2025, 07/2023 – 06/2025, OCOG should expect to receive a contract soon; no information has shown up in GMS yet. Timm stated he had attended the recent RTPO Coordination meeting.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

Chairman Neal reported the County Fair is coming up soon and there are several construction projects throughout the county that are being finished up.

Treasurer Thomson reported on the following:

- Greenacres Road is closed for drainage work for approximately 2 months, the work is being performed by Trout Unlimited.

**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

WSDOT North Central Region Planning Manager, Shaun Darveshi, reported the following:

- Thanked OCOG for their letter of support
- There is a current paving project going on near the Omak Elementary School
- There was a meeting held by to discuss temporarily resetting two stop lights at 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> to help the Stampede Rodeo traffic flow
- A tentative meeting has been set for September (no date or time) to discuss a pedestrian walkway from Omak, near Walmart to the 12 Tribes Casino; WSDOT is conducting a study

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Chairman/Commissioner Neal asked if WSDOT is still on schedule to fix the railroad crossing south of Oroville, around the end of August. Darveshi stated no changes have been reported, it is on schedule as far as he knows.

**County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion**

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

- The Eagle Bluff fire near Oroville that started on 07/29 and burned approximately 16,000 acres is nearly 100% contained at this time
- The fire currently burning near Diablo Dam has closed SR20, however it is projected that the highway will be reopened 08/16

**Action: Approval of Additional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funds for the Town of Winthrop – Riverwalk Trail Chewuch Undercrossing**

Treasurer Thomson gave a detailed timeline and funding history of the Town of Winthrop Riverwalk Trail/Chewuch Undercrossing project. Representatives of the project, Jeff Sarvis, Brooke Bourn, and Rita Kenny were present to request an additional \$328,371 of TAP funding, which requires OCOG's approval.

Ms. Kenny explained that this project was scaled back this year to include primarily the underpass under the Chewuch River bridge to provide some relief of pedestrian traffic on SR20 at the 4-way stop in downtown Winthrop. Future plans include finishing the riverwalk trail behind businesses on SR20. Director Sarvis stated the project is shovel ready. Mayor Pro-Tem Ben Nelson stated that the Town Council regards this project as economic development for the Town and unanimously supports the project. Ms. Bourn reported they have 23 landowners involved in the total project; a majority of them have signed easement agreements, they have verbal approval of others and there are still some landowners that have more questions.

Barry Freel asked Shawn Darveshi, WSDOT if he anticipated any projects, they have in the near future that would conflict with the underpass project; Mr. Darveshi will check and report back to Mr. Freel.

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**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to approve TAP funds be appropriated to the Town of Winthrop – Riverwalk Trail Chewuch Undercrossing Project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scott and passed unanimously.

**Discussion: Compile a 2023-2028 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

Treasurer Thomson reported the draft 2023-2028 RTIP has not changed since the last OCOG meeting. Thomson is still waiting for information on the Oak Street Project from Okanogan, the Twisp SR20 Sidewalk/Bike/Pedestrian project information, and any WSDOT projects.

WSDOT Tribal and Regional Integrated Planning, Kate Tollefson, requested that Treasurer Thomson provide her with a draft copy of the RTIP when it is complete.

**Discussion/Action: Change of OCOG Bylaws to include WSDOT as a Voting Member**

Chairman Neal referred to the July 2023 meeting minutes, stating that WSDOT Regional Planning Manager Philips stated he believes there are ways to make WSDOT a voting member and can look into it more. Ms. Tollefson will be checking on his progress and reporting back to OCOG.

It was agreed to table the discussion while Ms. Tollefson obtains more information.

**Discussion: TranGO Availability During Emergent Situations**

Secretary Timm reported that he had submitted a draft Inter-Local Agreement regarding the TranGO Availability During Emergent Situations to Emergency Management for their attorney's review. Timm stated that TranGO is willing to help with emergency evacuations if necessary.

Ms. Tollefson suggested that the Inter-Local Agreement language should match the HSTP and that an approved copy of the agreement should be attached to the HSTP.

**Discussion: RTPO Administrative Support Position**

Treasurer Thomson reported advertising has gone out for the RTPO Administrative Support position; he currently has one application.

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**Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees**

Council Member Misty Ruiz reported there are no updates at this time. Ms. Ruiz stated there is not a current jail fee contract between Okanogan County and the Cities/Towns. Chairman Neal would like to keep the topic on the agenda to make sure it's still on everyone's mind.

**Roundtable Updates**

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

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Neal adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Approved:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Gleason, TranGO, Finance/HR Director