

**Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
October 10, 2022 – Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm  
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=TU1wZktBZHl4S0Y2UHVuMTFIRjY3UT09>**

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**Present:** Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor – OCOG Chairman  
Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager - OCOG Secretary  
Josh Thomson, Okanogan County, Engineer - Treasurer  
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board  
Kelly Hook, City of Pateros, Mayor  
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member  
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member  
Bobby Watkins, OCTN, Operations Director  
Shawn Davisson, City of Okanogan, Public Works Director (joined at 5:33 p.m.)  
Aaron Studen, Town of Twisp, Council Member (joined at 5:33 p.m.)  
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director  
Kathy Murray, WSDOT, NCW Planning Manager  
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Regional Liaison  
Gabe Philips, WSDOT, Regional Planning Manager

**Call to Order/Welcome**

Chairman Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion**

Okanogan County Emergency Management Director Maurice Goodall reported the following:

- The burn ban was partially lifted last Friday, and campfires are now permitted. DNR also is allowing campfires and permit burns. The county burn ban is scheduled to be lifted on October 15, 2022, however on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, a fire meeting will be held, and he believes they may extend the restriction.
- The Department of Health (DOH) informed him they will have a Covid-19 vaccine booster event on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Omak Stampede grounds. There is also a vaccine booster event at the Red Barn in Twisp on October 14<sup>th</sup>, time unknown.

**Update: Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Josh Thomson reported he processed a bill for \$484 for the CPT-HSTP. The total contract amount was \$60,000 which leaves a remaining balance of \$2,800 and the project is now

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complete. As of the first part of the year, OCOG had only used approximately \$7,700 of their funds and he has not generated an invoice since the end of June. He stated OCOG needs to find a way to use the remaining funds, or they will be returned for another RTPO to use.

**Update: Secretary Report**

Secretary Brent Timm reported he received the final draft of the CPT-HSTP this afternoon and as Treasurer Thomson mentioned, there is approximately \$2,000 left in the budget. He stated he could do a summary of the high points of the plan to use the remaining funds and could utilize SCJ Alliance to help pull together grants that fit under the recommendations of the plan. He asked if anyone has ideas on how to spend the remaining funds, to let him know.

Secretary Timm attended the Rural RTPO Meeting last week where the main topic of conversation was the WSDOT funding formula for RTPOs. It was suggested that the Rural RTPOs come up with a minimum amount of money needed from WSDOT to administer the RTPO program to help facilitate the conversation for the need of changing the formula. There is an RTPO/MPO Coordination Meeting on November 15, 2022. He has the meeting information and can pass along if there is someone that would like to attend.

Council Members Aaron Studen and Shawn Davisson joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda and Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

**Additions:** None

**Deletions:** None

**Motion:**

Secretary Timm moved to approve the Agenda and September 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kelly Hook.

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

**Public Hearing - 2023-2028 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

Chairman Neal opened the Public Hearing at 5:35 p.m. and requested a staff report.

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Treasurer/County Engineer Josh Thomson reported the RTIP is a snapshot of the monthly project progress (except for December) for various cities/towns. He submitted a draft of the 2023-2028 RTIP which was first presented during last month's OGOC meeting. He has not received any additional comments. He stated the Tonasket Project (Perfect Passage) will need to be amended and added in January as the consultant didn't have the information they needed.

There were no questions from staff.

Chairman Neal closed the Hearing to staff and opened the Hearing to the public at 5:37 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment or public participation.

Chairman Neal closed the Hearing for public testimony at 5:37 p.m. and opened the Hearing to Council. There were no questions from Council.

**Action: Approval of 2023-2028 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson moved to approve the 2023-2028 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Timm.

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

Chairman Neal closed the Public Hearing at 5:38 p.m.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

Commissioner/Vice-Chair Chris Branch was absent from the meeting. Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson reported the following:

- Any city/towns that have ARPA funds coming, should receive letters this week.
- They are working on a box culvert on Salmon Creek Road, and the road is closed until Friday, October 14, 2022.
- They have finished chip sealing.

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**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

WSDOT NCW Planning Manager Kathy Murray reported they have been busy with the Complete Streets Project and the Oroville Railroad Crossing project is in design.

WSDOT Regional Liaison Kate Tollefson reported the following:

- She thanked OCOG for the CPT-HSTP work as there was a lot of public engagement.
- The Consolidated Grant Regional Ranking process for this year is due in January. She wanted to make sure that OCOG receives copies of any applications coming from the Okanogan area. OCOG may need to reach out to make sure they are receiving them, as WSDOT doesn't send those, they come directly from the grant requestor.
- She reminded everyone that the Consolidated Grant applications are due later this month. They have more funds available than they've had in the past and there are also some planning grants available.

**Discussion: OCOG in the Washington State Transportation Commission 2022 Annual Legislative Report**

No discussion at this time.

**Discussion: Review of 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Okanogan Region**

Secretary Timm reminded everyone that the RTP needs to be reviewed and include any updates/changes and report to WSDOT by the end of the biennium.

**Discussion: RTPO Administrative Support Position MOU Draft/Update**

Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson stated he spoke with Commissioner Chris Branch regarding finalizing the details of the position, which boils down to a liability issue. This was discussed during last month's meeting, but no decision was made on which direction to go regarding liability. Commissioner Branch found one RTPO who has insurance through AWC. Secretary Timm suggested someone inquire to see how much insurance would cost through them. Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson asked if it would be an eligible expense with RTPO funds. WSDOT Planning Manager Gabe Philips stated it is an eligible expense. Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson stated he will research this further and report back at next month's meeting.

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**Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees**

None update at this time.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

**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 5:49 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board