

Okanogan Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Planning Organization
November 14, 2022 – 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=TU1wZktBZHI4S0Y2UHVuMTFIRjY3UT09>

Present: Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor – OCOG Chairman
*Brent Timm, TranGO, General Manager - OCOG Secretary
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board
*Wayne Turner, City of Okanogan, Mayor
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Teagan Levine, City of Tonasket, Council Member
Bobby Watkins, OCTN, Operations Director
Sally Ranzau, Town on Winthrop, Mayor
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director
*Mike Worden, Okanogan County Sheriff's Office, Chief Special Ops
Kathy Murray, WSDOT, NCW Planning Manager
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Regional Liaison
Paula Reeves, WSTC, Senior Policy Analyst
Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Economic Alliance, Executive Director

*These participants attended in person

Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Jon Neal called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

***There was no quorum for this meeting**

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Josh Thomson was absent from the meeting. Secretary Brent Timm reported Thomson provided an email in which he stated things had been slow this past month and he had nothing to report at this time.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Timm had nothing to report at this time.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice-Chair Chris Branch and Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson were absent from the meeting.

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Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT NCW Planning Manager, Kathy Murray, reported the following:

- The state has a Connecting Communities grant open right now.
- For the North Central area, a grant was submitted for Omak for Safe Routes to School and to replace the Omak bridge. This grant will look at what is needed for sidewalks between the school and bridge. They also asked for a planning grant for a safer place to walk, bike and ride horses along the highway (from East Omak to the 12 Tribes Casino).
- They are working on Complete Streets projects.
- Tomorrow, November 15th, there is an RTPO meeting regarding formula funding.
- The Oroville Railroad crossing project is programmed for this Spring.

WSDOT Regional Liaison, Kate Tollefson, reported the following:

- She reminded everyone that the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) is due to WSDOT by December 1, 2022, which needs to be submitted through GMS (Grants Management System). Secretary Timm stated he will work with Treasurer/County Engineer Thomson on this.
- WSDOT received a Consolidated Grant program application from Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition (OCTN). A ranking form will need to be completed and submitted through GMS online, which is due at the end of January 2023.

County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion

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

- With the recent snowstorm, they worked with the power companies and public works departments on outages and road issues.
- The Salmon Creek culvert project has been completed and the road is now open.

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- There is an upcoming meeting at the Okanogan Agriplex regarding the Conconully dam to discuss potential emergent situations. Several agencies will be present.

Okanogan County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Chief Special Ops, Mike Worden, reported he has been working on the Public Safety Improvement Project. The only real option for a new emergency communication system is to merge with the current WSDOT system which will need expansion to accommodate for the use by OCSO. This system is quite expensive as they will need various new radios to use, but there was no alternative. There is a 3-million-dollar gap, and he is working on a legislative request to fill that gap. He reported that most likely everyone will hear about this in the next legislative session, as the county is presenting it.

Chairman Neal asked if he has reached out to fire districts yet and Mr. Worden stated he has reached out and asked for imagery. He stated they are also seeking one early "adopter agency" to get on the system and work out the kinks. Chairman Neal also asked if they have determined a location in Oroville and Mr. Worden stated they would like to use Eder Hill/Mountain.

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

Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) Senior Policy Analyst, Paula Reeves, explained what the Commission does and stated each year they produce an annual legislative report. She is requesting an OCOG update for the WSTC annual report. This report can include projects/activities for the past year and any challenges the council is facing, such as staffing issues, etc. She stated she can help put that together if needed. Chairman Neal stated Okanogan County Engineer/Treasurer Thomson could probably assist with providing information regarding various projects/activities.

Secretary Timm asked if the report could draw attention to the numerous pedestrian fatalities on Highway 97, in particular between Omak and the 12 Tribes Casino. Ms. Reeves stated yes, this could be pointed out to bring attention to the legislature, especially if there is a need to help with project funding. WSDOT NCW Planning Manager Murray stated she can put together wording regarding this issue.

This update was due by October 31, 2022, but she will work with OCOG to get this information included.

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Discussion: .09 Public Infrastructure Dollars

Executive Director, Roni Holder-Diefenbach, from Economic Alliance invited everyone, especially the cities, to attend the .09 Public Infrastructure Dollars meeting on November 29, 2022, from 2:30-4:00 p.m., in the County Commissioners Hearing Room. Economic Alliance facilitates the .09 Public Infrastructure Dollars, and this discussion will revisit the process on how the .09 tax dollars are allocated. Almost 20 years ago, a bond was put in place which will soon be paid off. With the bond payments being eliminated, they will now have funding to be allocated. Back in 2005-2006, the county decided to do a 40/40/20 split. This split will be up for discussion and how to move forward; if this split should continue or will be handled differently. County, cities, and special districts can apply for funding, and they will be ranked accordingly.

Chairman Neal asked what the specifics were regarding prioritizing a project. Ms. Holder-Diefenbach stated when someone completes an application, they are sent a matrix (which is on their website) regarding prioritization. A committee then scores the project based on the matrix and certain other criteria.

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 was absent from the meeting but provided an email with an update. Secretary Timm reported on Thomson's behalf the WA Counties Risk Pool and the County Prosecutor's Office recommend OCOG adopt certain language for this position. Each member entity would need to adopt an amendment to the MOU, so each entity would be responsible for its own liability, and in the case that it is joint OCOG liability, each entity would help with the defense. If all agree to proceed this direction, Thomson will have a have an amendment of the MOU draft, for each city and agency/county to look at and bring to their councils for review. There was no information as to if Mr. Thomson researched the cost of insurance.

Discussion: Brewster Jail Fees

No update at this time.

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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 5:50 p.m.

Approved:



Jon Neal, Chairman

Attested:



Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board