

**Okanogan Council of Governments/  
Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
July 12, 2021 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm**

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

**Guests:** Hans Shepherd, SCJ Alliance  
Paul Budrow, Town of Twisp, Police Chief  
Daniel Christensen, City of Omak, Police Chief

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

**Welcome/Role Call**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Additions:** April 14, 2021 Executive Board Notes; for approval

**Deletions:** None

**Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting, April 14, 2021 – Executive Board Meeting, and June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting**

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**Motion:**

Council Member Anders moved to approve the April 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting, April 14, 2021 – Executive Board Meeting, and the June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Branch and passed unanimously.

**Update: Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Thomson stated that SCJ Alliance is working on their final invoice for the Back Roads Study, Phase II. Thomson reported OCOG spent a total of \$77,295.64 of the \$77,310 budget, leaving only \$14.36 unspent.

Treasurer Thomson asked that the Washington State Auditor’s Office Data Sharing letter be placed on the August agenda.

**Update: Secretary Report**

Secretary Scalf reported she received the updated Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan guidelines from WSDOT Liaison Tollefson on July 12<sup>th</sup>. She will review the guidelines and prepare a Request for Qualification. Scalf will send Tollefson a draft for review and bring it back for Council review.

**Update: Okanogan County Report**

Commissioner/Vice Chairperson Branch reported on the following:

- The County Commissioners are still soliciting projects for the American Rescue Plan Act and working with Roni Holden-Diefenbach, with Economic Alliance. Economic Alliance has moved their office to downtown Okanogan; the Hancock Building near the Court House.
- The Okanogan County Fair will be held this year; they are happy to report they retained the same person as director of the fair
- The County is finding it difficult to fill the open position for Senior Planning Director.

**Update: Washington State Department of Transportation**

Planner Nelson reported that as of the morning of July 12<sup>th</sup>, SR 20 is closed from milepost 170 – 177, 20 miles west of Winthrop because of a fire. The Forest Service is falling trees in that area for a fire break; there is no report on when SR 20 will reopen.

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Regional Liaison Tollefson reported the updated Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Guidebook had been released July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Senior Planner Mazur thanked the County for getting invoices submitted on time and for coming in on budget.

**Update: Back Roads Study**

Hans Shepherd, with SCJ Alliance showed the Council where on the OCOG website to find the Back Roads Study, gave the Council an overview, and answered questions.

**County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion**

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

- There is a Type 3 fire team on SR20 above Mazama; they are hoping to re-open SR20, but the fire is burning down towards the Highway at this time.
- There is a fire camp set up west of Winthrop
- There will be a community meeting on either July 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> regarding the fire
- He reminded everyone to sign up for Nixel to get emergency updates
- They have KN95 masks available for distribution
- Chairperson Ing-Moody thanked Director Goodall for the good communication his department is providing
- Council Member Ranzau stated that the Red Barn in Winthrop is available for meetings if needed
- Chairperson Ing-Moody requested masks from Goodall for persons needing relief from the smoke

Tony Hawley, Okanogan County Sheriff reported that in regards to House Bill 1310 – Concerning permissible uses of force by law enforcement and correctional officers, he is taking his time and giving careful consideration to how this will be implemented in the Sheriff's Office.

**Discussion: Hiring a Transportation Administrative Position**

Chairperson Ing-Moody reported that in the 2021-2023 Biennium budget there is a line item for \$50,000 to be used for an administrative position for OCOG/RTPO. She clarified that this person would not just be an administrative liaison or assistant, but rather someone with some planning experience, a person that would keep up with RTPO and MPO / state-wide transportation issues, someone who could participate in state-wide transportation discussions relevant to Okanogan

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County and provide a voice for members of OCOG/ORTPO. Chairperson Ing-Moody explained that those duties currently fall to the Executive Committee members and that there is not always enough time for those individuals to attend the various pertinent meetings. She suggested that this position should have a two-year renewable contract that runs in conjunction with the State biennium. Chairperson Ing-Moody stated that other RTPOs in the state have a planner or someone contracted to assist their RTPOs and she feels that this would be a start towards providing us with sustainability and continuity as Council Members change and / rotate off of OCOG/ORTPO.

It was suggested that a small committee be formed to develop a list of duties for this position. The Council decided it would be the Executive Committee and whoever else would like to volunteer from the Council; Council Members Anders and Levine both volunteered.

Council Member Scott stated she thought this position would be a great investment and hopes by funding this position, the individual would be able to assist OCOG in researching / acquiring other funding to further support ORTPO priority projects.

It was mentioned that it may be advantageous to consider a partnership with other agencies to make the Planner position full-time.

**Human Services Transportation Plan – Request for Qualifications**

Secretary Sclaf reported that she will review the 2018 Request for Qualifications. She stated that Covid-19 may have affected how the plan needs to be written in 2022.

**Action: Resolution #2021-01 – Amendment to the OCOG Bylaws**

**Motion:**

Vice-Chairperson Branch moved to approve Resolution #2021-01 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kriner and passed unanimously.

It was suggested that each jurisdiction be responsible to notify the OCOG Secretary of any Representative or Alternate changes or additions.

**Discussion: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Vice-Chairperson Branch stated this information gathering process will go on over the next two years and the Commissioners want to organize and prioritize in a thoughtful manner to avoid any overlaps in requests.

**Discussion: House Bill 1310**

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Omak Police Chief Dan Christensen, Twisp Police Chief Paul Budrow, and Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley were present to discuss House Bill 1310 concerning the permissible uses of force by law enforcement (LE) and correctional officers.

The Council engaged in an in-depth conversation with these three LE representatives regarding what these changes mean to local LE agencies and its personnel and how they plan to guide their departments through developing policies and procedures to ensure the best service to citizens while also protecting their officers.

The group discussed the following:

- HB 1310 is a complete fundamental change in the way LE has historically been run
- It will be hard for officers to know what they are allowed to do regarding reasonable suspicion, probable cause, and use of force; there is a risk to responding to a call and a risk to not responding
- Citizens are not happy that officers are not responding
- Dispatch staff will need to make more judgement calls when dispatching officers
- The LE reps at the meeting are urging support of officers by citizens while they work out the details and policies
- They are encouraging citizens to share with the LE agencies their stories of how they might be affected by this change of service
- This may create “vigilantes” wanting to handle situations themselves
- The LE representatives were asked how elected officials could help. They were encouraged to speak out to legislators about how these changes are affecting their communities and citizens
- It is anticipated that there will be increased issues with recruitment and retention
- First Responders will suffer from the lack of involvement allowed by LE officers; officers are no longer able to secure a scene before First Responders go in, this could also impact people wanting to go into these careers
- They discussed that the bill only passed by 3 votes. It was mentioned by Chief Christianson that the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is believed to have supported the bill. Chairperson Ing-Moody explained that AWC pushed back on several points leading up to the final iteration and that the final bill was reached by many organizations and agencies participating in the crafting of legislation. AWC supported certain measures leading to the final draft but ultimately did not have the final or

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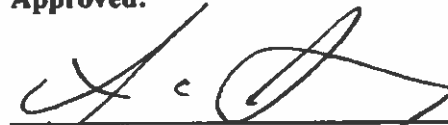
definitive word on the language included in the final draft, which comprised of many other participants including law enforcement groups

- The group discussed Community Block Watch Programs. The LE representatives agreed that their presence in a neighborhood is positive, but the best way to work with LE is to gather information and not to take action themselves.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairperson Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

**Approved:**

  
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Soo Ing-Moody, Chairperson

**Attested:**

  
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Jackie Gleason, TranGO Clerk of the Board