

**Okanogan Council of Governments/
Regional Transportation Planning Organization
December 13, 2021 – Meeting Minutes - 5:00 pm
1 (646)749-3122 – Access Code: 119-082-677 or by logging on using
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/119082677>**

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
Brent Timm, TranGO Acting General Manager - OCOG Secretary
Jackie Gleason, TranGO, Finance/HR Director
Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO, Clerk of the Board
Marylou Kriner, City of Tonasket, Mayor
Teagan Levin, City of Tonasket, Council Member
Carlene Anders, City of Pateros, Mayor
Chris Scott, Town of Conconully, Council Member
Barry Freel, City of Omak, Council Member
Tim Rieb, City of Brewster, Council Member
Jon Culp, City of Okanogan, Mayor
Jon Neal, City of Oroville, Mayor
Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Mayor
Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management, Director
Kate Tollefson, WSDOT, Regional Liaison
George Mazur, WSDOT, Senior Planner

*Chris Branch and Maurice Goodall arrived at 5:09pm.

Call to Order

Chairperson Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Welcome/Role Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting, September 13, 2021 – Regular Meeting, and November 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting

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Motion:

Council Member Carlene Anders moved to approve the July 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting, September 13, 2021 – Regular Meeting, and November 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sally Ranzau and passed unanimously.

Update: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Josh Thomson reported they have not submitted an invoice to Department of Transportation (DOT) since July 2021. There has been \$1,740 in incurred expenses which has not yet been submitted. He reported he recently received an email from the State Auditor's Office stating they are making changes to the data sharing agreement and are working with the Town of Twisp and their Attorney. Upon completion he will share the new agreement, possibly at the next meeting.

Update: Secretary Report

Secretary Brent Timm reported the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is ready and on tonight's agenda for approval.

Update: Okanogan County Report

Commissioner/Vice Chairperson Chris Branch reported on the following:

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is still in progress.
- The County recently purchased the former Forest Service building in Okanogan, near the Public Works and Department of Health buildings, which will be used by the Okanogan Superior Court. They had been using the Agri-Plex building at the Fairgrounds. There had been a lack of courthouse security in the past and this new building will also allow for more social distancing.
- He reported the County implemented pay increases, which were approved by the Union, along with non-bargaining units. Workforce retention has been a challenge with high turn-over, which required giving raises.
- The 2022 budget was adopted which resulted in a levy shift. This impacts Public Works by taking money from the road fund to supplement the budget, which they usually try to avoid as it can result in reduction of services. Okanogan County Engineer Josh Thomson added that a big percentage is discretionary work and preventative maintenance. He stated that due to Covid funding, these funds can be backfilled so it should be okay this year.

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- The Okanogan County Jail has had booking restrictions due to staffing and Covid restrictions, in addition to the laws changed by Legislature regarding arrests. Douglas County currently has a contract with the jail and has expressed their frustrations. They have stated they might withdraw their contribution for infrastructure of around \$30,000 per year. They are working on a resolution.

Update: Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT representative George Mazur reported on the following:

- He stated that Headquarters had not yet received a reimbursable agreement from OCOG. It was discussed to check and make sure it had been sent and to resend if needed.
- He mentioned they had lost a significant number of staff due to the vaccine mandate but have been doing well with restaffing.
- Regarding snow removal, there won't be any changes this year in procedure or funding. However, he wanted to make everyone aware that for the 2022-2023 winter season, there will be a change in the funding structure which will involve the towns.
- The Railroad crossing in Oroville will not be permanently fixed until the Spring or Summer of 2022.
- Recent flooding in British Columbia, Canada caused some road closures. A Federal level agreement was reached to allow Canadian trucks to operate in the USA, so there will be increased truck traffic.
- The 2022 Project List for the OCOG region is thin with only one main contract. There will be five bridge patching projects consisting of three on State Route 20 and two on Highway 97.
- Equity Planning Grants from WSDOT is intended to be led by regions, but OCOG can partner with them. It entails focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and agency interaction. The full statewide funding is \$150,000 for the biennium per project funding of \$15,000-\$25,000. There is half a dozen to a dozen projects statewide with the focus on outreach to underserved communities or an equity piece for transportation projects. He stated he can submit the paperwork for funding, but the due date is in 2 weeks.
- It was discussed that OCOG funding was planned to be used for a new administrative staff position which will be discussed on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, during a subcommittee meeting.

WSDOT representative Kate Tollefson reported on the following:

- RTPO Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) is on the agenda and OCOG only has one person listed on the Grant Management System (GMS) and WSDOT recommends having at least

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2 representatives. She stated ideally it should be someone from Okanogan County Public Works and Josh Thomson agreed. Thomson stated he is working on this.

County-Wide Emergency Updates/Discussion

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

- He stated there has been high river levels with water coming down from Canada, which is continuing. The river is still high which is unusual for this time of year. There was normal flooding, but no damage.
- They are still working with the Department of Health (DOH) regarding vaccinations at the Okanogan Fairgrounds and have slowed down on supplies.
- With recent news of various school/parade shootings, he recommended schools, towns and cities have an emergency action plan to decide how they would handle a major event crisis. Chairperson Ing-Moody thanked Goodall for bringing this to everyone's attention and mentioned this could be put on the agenda for a future meeting if necessary.

Action: Request for Qualification for a Consultant for Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)

Secretary Brent Timm reported the Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a Consultant for Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) is a request needed for coordinated services. It met WSDOT requirements, was submitted and the funding is available. It was agreed to advertise from December 22, 2021 – December 29, 2021 and have the first review of submissions on January 21, 2022.

Motion:

Secretary Timm moved to approve the Request for Qualification for a Consultant for Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) as presented. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Thomson and passed unanimously

Discussion: OCOG Executive Board Elections

Chairperson Ing-Moody reminded the Council she is stepping down as the Chairperson and encouraged anyone interested to express their interest.

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.

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Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairperson Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Approved:



Soo Ing-Moody, Chairperson

Attested:



Paula Brantner-Thomas, TranGO Clerk of the Board