

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Policy Board Meeting  
January 4, 2009  
Idaho Transportation Department District 1 Headquarters  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Jimmie Dorsey, Chair	East Side Highway District
Clay Larkin, Vice Chair	City of Post Falls
Marv Lekstrum	Lakes Highway District
Damon Allen	Idaho Transportation Department
Vic Holmes	City of Rathdrum
Rick Currie	Kootenai County
Anson Gable	City of Hayden
James Mangan	Worley Highway District
Al Hassell	City of Coeur d'Alene
Bob Miller	Post Falls Highway District (replacement)

### **Board Members Absent:**

Lynn Humphreys	Post Falls Highway District
Norma Peone	Coeur d'Alene Tribe

### **Staff Present:**

Carole Richardson, Transportation Planning Engineer  
Jeff Selle, Manager of Government Affairs  
Jennifer Wash, Administrative Assistant  
Ryan Stewart, Sr. Transportation Planner

### **1. Call to Order.**

The meeting of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board was called to order by Chair, Jimmie Dorsey at 1:30 pm.

### **2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes.**

**Mr. Rick Currie made a motion to approve the December 4, 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. James Mangan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **3. Public Comments – There were no comments given.**

### **4. Administrative Matters – Carole Richardson**

Voucher 4a

**Mr. James Mangan made a motion to approve the payments:**

- a) KMPO Vouchers for November 2008 in the amount of \$33,573.53.**
- b) Huetter Corridor Study – Key 9170 for October-November 2008 in the amount of \$2,884.72**
- c) SH-97 Study – Key 9770 for October-November 2008 in the amount of \$24,955.59.**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Vic Holmes and unanimously approved.**

## **5. Public Transportation**

### **a) Status Report on Citylink Service**

Mr. Alan Eirls handed out the Citylink report and updated the Board on ridership for the month of December. Ridership dropped considerably, about 10,000, due to severe snow conditions which included shutting down service on December 18<sup>th</sup> and shutting down every other run to service as many people as they could. Citylink also lost an engine on one bus but has already been replaced and back on the road, and another bus that was broad sided which is still drivable at this point. Mr. Eirls updated the Board on the status of the temporary Riverstone park and ride facility off of Seltice. Use of the temporary facility was put on hold due to snow piles placed on the property and will have to wait for spring to prep the property for their use. Citylink has talked about lighting which would cost about \$7500, but has decided against putting in a fence and paving at this time. Mr. Eirls also mentioned that Citylink has received a \$225,000 tribal transit grant to assist with on-demand service on the Coeur d'Alene reservation.

### **b) Status Report on KATS Service**

Mr. Joe Crowe handed out the KATS-Link report. He noted that numbers are low due to the weather and having to go to 'emergency services only' on some days.

### **c) Financial Report – John Austin**

Mr. John Austin stated that they are out for proposals on the part of services currently provided by KATS which procured every three years. Proposals are due in February and the Board will then be updated on the budget process for the April 1 contract deadline. Mr. Austin also stated for the National Transportation Database, KATS now has to report their activities for the year.

### **d) Transit Center Study Update – Ryan Stewart**

Mr. Ryan Stewart gave an update on the Transit Center Location Study. KMPO has gone through the RFP advertisement process and received five proposals. Two of the proposals were equally scored and are still being evaluated, but due to the weather it

has been difficult to get all the selection committee members together for this final review. Mr. Stewart stated that KMPO staff will come back to the Board in February with a recommendation of award of contract.

## **6. KCATT Recommendations – Kevin Howard**

### **a) STP Rural Funding Support Letters**

Chair Kevin Howard reported at their December meeting, KCATT determined to make the following recommendations for the KMPO Policy Board's consideration:

East Side Highway District will be applying for Surface Transportation Program (STP) Rural funds to reconstruct a 1.5 mile segment of Burma Road from SH97 to Carlin Bay Road. Worley Highway District is also seeking STP Rural funding for 2 miles of Kidd Island Road from US95 extending east. Lakes Highway District is also applying for STP funds for 5.25 miles of Old US95 frontage road from SH 53 to Corbin Hill. This will work in concert with ITD's Garwood to Sagle project.

All three of these routes are important Rural Major Collectors for the county. Reconstructing and rehabilitating them will improve the safety and service life and is consistent with KMPO's policies. KCATT recommends that the Board authorize letters of support for both projects.

Ms. Richardson informed the Board that the third project from Lakes Highway District was submitted for recommendation after the KCATT meeting and via email the committee recognized that this project would be eligible for STP funds and agreed to add it to the list of recommendations for letter of support.

**Mr. Jim Mangan made a motion to authorize letters of support to LHTAC for STP Funds for each of the projects stated above. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **b) Stimulus Project List**

Mr. Kevin Howard informed the Board that the potential for a federal economic stimulus act has been discussed at the last two KCATT meetings. In preparation for possible stimulus funding, the group has assembled the attached list of candidate projects. The list contains both short-duration projects that would bring a quick infusion of jobs and money to the economy, as well as longer-duration projects which may generate construction jobs for more than a year. He stated at the top of the list are Bridging the Valley projects that may need further discussion and asks the Board to go through the list and determine whether or not the Board wants to support all or some or alter the list in any way.

Mr. Howard asked Jeff Selle from SRTC to update the Board on the latest information from Washington D.C. on this issue. Mr. Selle asked if they would like to hear from the

ITD Board side first and deferred the matter to Mr. Damon Allen since he was at the meeting in Boise.

Mr. Damon Allen explained that the Transportation Board called a special meeting together on January 7 to speak partly on the economic stimulus. There was a formal presentation given, but there were technical difficulties with the video conferencing equipment and the districts outside Boise were not able to hear the whole meeting. Mr. Allen reported each ITD district came up with their project lists and the ITD headquarters office in Boise consolidated the lists. ITD then put together a hypothetical stimulus plan based loosely around \$100M and came up with six different scenarios on how that money could be divided among projects for the Transportation Board's consideration. It was determined that the locals would receive a portion of the stimulus funds just as they do now with other federal aid funds. Local projects would be funded on a first come first served basis, depending on readiness. There are still many questions unanswered. He also stated that the Transportation Board considered the 6 different scenarios for how ITD might spend the stimulus money. Two primary philosophical points were addressed: Do you use the money to build large complex expensive projects that are hard to fund or do you spend it on many small preservation projects statewide? These two scenarios were the basis for most of the Transportation Board's debate. At the end of the meeting the Transportation Board made a motion that they were going to fund some large complex projects. This forum was a discussion exercise for the Transportation Board, and Mr. Allen advised that KMPO's process for identifying local stimulus projects should continue.

Mr. Clay Larkin pointed out that the City of Post Falls for a Seltice Way Cedar Signal was on one list and was dropped off from the revised list handed out at the Board meeting. Ms. Carole Richardson apologized for the oversight and noted the project should be on the list.

Mr. Jeff Selle gave an update on the legislative side of the stimulus discussion, stating that Obama's economic advisors today are releasing some of the detail of their economic stimulus plan. The government is looking at a starting point of \$775 billion. \$300 billion will go to tax breaks at various levels, \$350 billion will go to infrastructure and of that \$30 or \$40 billion will go to highways and bridges. The House Transportation Infrastructure Committee has made their framework available on their website. It includes about \$30 billion for highways and bridges and \$12 billion for transit. Mr. Selle advised that Idaho may receive up to \$200 million in this package, with \$24 million coming back to the locals. He stated that in the House Infrastructure Bill, the money will be distributed through the federal funding formulas with no earmarks. There is also a provision that the states will have to certify equitable distribution of these funds. Mr. Selle explained the other crucial points in the house bill is a 90 day obligation period for 50% of the money that the state receives. The second point is states would have 180 days to develop a plan for how to spend the remaining 50% of the money over the course of the year. This may open a larger window for some of the projects that just aren't quite ready yet.

Mr. Clay Larkin asked if there is any way to get a better understanding of the qualifying criteria. Mr. Selle stated that everything is still speculative at this point, but he recommends preparing the projects like you would any federal funded projects under STP.

Ms. Carole Richardson stated that KMPO's strategy is to identify projects that can be done immediately and then to wait for the requirements of the actual stimulus act before we assemble a list of these longer 1 to 2 year projects so time won't be spent on things that are unknown at this point.

Mr. Selle reported that the new deadline for the stimulus package to be presented before President Obama and signed will be possibly Presidents Day (February 16<sup>th</sup>) in which one more KMPO Board will pass to report the criteria as it comes available.

Ms. Richardson asked the Board for discussion on the two projects on the top of this list provided to the Board at the meeting. She stated the list needs to be finalized soon to send off to the Idaho Legislature and also Idaho's Congressional Delegation. The two projects for discussion are the Bridging the Valley projects which require some local match, right of way acquisition, and design to get these projects ready. It was suggested that these two projects may be more suitable for the second wave of stimulus money.

The KMPO Board discussed which projects are ready for this list and concluded that a lot has to happen now to get these two BTV projects ready in time and risky to push through. The other projects were discussed and jurisdictions who submitted the other projects are more confident their projects can be 'shovel ready' quickly.

Mr. Larkin asked Ms. Richardson for her suggestion concerning the projects on the list. Ms. Richardson noted it is unlikely that the two Bridging the Valley projects can be made ready in 90-180 days. She recommended setting aside the two high risk projects for now, and bringing them back for consideration later if a second wave of stimulus funding materializes with longer deadlines. She also recommended limiting the list to one project per jurisdiction, but instead anything that can be ready to bid quickly should be added to the list.

Mr. Al Hassell suggested keeping the list as is until criteria is more available. Mr. Damon Allen agreed with Mr. Hassell but also stated that everyone should add more to this list and once the criteria comes out have KCATT form a rapid action team to go over criteria and prioritize the list.

**Mr. Damon Allen made a motion to keep the list 'as is' as well as add more projects to the list and once criteria is defined then have a group prioritize the final list. Mr. Marv Lekstrum seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.**

## **7. Director's Report – Carole Richardson**

Ms. Carole Richardson informed the Board that KMPO is ready to launch our County-wide Non-motorized Plan. This study will be done in house with the help of an intern from Eastern Washington University. An Advisory group will be assembled and the first meeting will be in mid-February. In addition to completing a long range plan for bicycles and pedestrians, which is missing from KMPO's current long range plan, another outcome will be a very nice bicycle route map for the County which will be helpful in enhancing tourism.

Ms. Richardson also mentioned that there will be some transit funds that will likely come up in the stimulus bill. Our transit providers and staff have been asked to start thinking about where they can use some extra funds.

She also stated the Highway 97 study is wrapping up. The budget for this study has been exhausted and we hope to have a final draft report shortly.

## **8. Other Business**

### **a) TIP Amendment No. 1**

Ms. Carole Richardson noted that the Board packets included a proposed amendment to KMPO's 2009-1013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She reminded the Board at the last urban balancing meeting there was some extra 2009 money on the table and Mr. Miles secured that money for funding a project that had been approved previously for the City of Dalton Gardens' on Hanley Avenue. This project has now been divided into three phases to fit available funding. The City will be able to construct the first phase this year. Additional funds were also secured for the City of Coeur d'Alene's Gov't Way project which was added to the STIP a few months ago. These two changes to the TIP were published for public comment already and there were no comments submitted. In addition to this there are a couple of administrative adjustments to the program that KMPO needs to do in order for our TIP to mirror the STIP. Ms Richardson asked the Board for their approval on this TIP Amendment No. 1.

**Mr. Jim Mangan made a motion to approve the TIP Amendment No. 1 presented above. Mr. Vic Holmes seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.**

### **b) Inland Pacific Hub**

Mr. Jeff Selle gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the organization Inland Pacific Hub (IPH), comprised of transportation-related business leaders and public agencies from Idaho and Washington for the purpose of developing an international gateway for global trade. Since its inception, a small group of civic leaders loosely formed an interim board, which sought and secured public funding to conduct a feasibility study of the transportation assets in the region and how best to prioritize projects that will drive economic development.

Mr. Selle would like to have a final appointed Board by both KMPO and SRTC by June to move forward through the next legislative session.

Mr. Clay Larkin requested the KMPO Board Chair Jimmie Dorsey be included on this advisory board.

**Jim Mangan made a motion that the Board approve the establishment and function of the Inland Pacific Hub Advisory Committee. Mr. Damon Allen seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.**

### **c) US95 Access Study Update**

Ms. Richardson updated the Board on the US95 Access Study pertaining to the open house held January 6<sup>th</sup>. About 40 people from the corridor came to the open house and the members of the Steering Committee were there with their support. There were a lot of constructive comments from the attendees this time. In the written comments there were very little objection or opposition as well as a couple of glowing comments on the final recommendations. There is a small group in the Bosanko area that is opposed to removal of the signal at that location. KMPO Staff and Steering Committee will have additional meetings with these business owners. Ms. Richardson stated that the open house went very well but suggests waiting on the recommendation until these meetings have been followed through with. Marv Lekstrum and Carole Richardson met with the Chamber of Public Policy Committee this morning and gave them an update on the study recommendations which were well received. She stated that Mr. Damon Allen has moved KMPO's appointment with the Transportation Board to mid February, which would allow the KMPO Board to wait until February 5 to take action.

Mr. Marv Lekstrum thanked the Steering Committee and Ms. Carole Richardson for the support and coordination with this study.

### **d) Right of Way Fund Legislation**

Ms. Richardson explained Representative Hart's draft legislation on his proposed Right of Way Fund Act. The legislation takes about 5% of new and used auto dealership sales taxes and puts into a Right of Way preservation fund for the state. The amount is proposed to go up to 10% of those used sales and used taxes in 2011 and 15% in 2012 through 2019 which reduces revenues that are currently used for other purposes. Representative Hart's proposal also has in it a formula for distributing those Right of Way funds. The formula includes the distribution to counties and highway districts but had overlooked cities. KMPO staff had questioned the suitability of a distribution formula, because these monies would be available to purchase Right of Way only in areas where local agencies have adopted a future right of way acquisitions map.

Mr. Larkin stated that the concept of putting away funds for future Right of Way acquisition is solid but he foresees some problems with the methodology proposed in

the draft legislation. Timing for this is not good and the concern is they are not just taking sales and used tax but they will distribute 33 1/3% to counties with an approved MPO. Mr. Larkin is concerned that existing revenue sharing is already reduced in light of the current economy. He stated that he will ask the Cities to support not following through with this proposed legislation of taking tax money for Right of Way.

Mr. Anson Gable agreed with Mr. Larkin on this matter.

**Mr. Clay Larkin made a motion to not support this proposal at this time. Mr. Anson Gable seconded the motion. Mr. Jim Mangan suggested to modify the motion by supporting the concept but don't believe the timing is right for using funds for this purpose. Mr. Clay Larkin seconded this revised motion which was unanimously approved.**

## **9. Board Member Items**

Mr. Jim Mangan made the Board aware of an advertisement in the newspaper publicizing a Department of Environmental Quality on February 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding rulemaking for vehicle emissions testing program. He stated that he has a copy of a letter addressing Tony Hardesty of DEQ from Glenn Miles on changes KMPO would like to see. He asked if there would be someone from KMPO attending this meeting to express the Board's concerns about this program.

Ms. Carole Richardson stated that she has the Feb 3 meeting on her calendar, as well as a prior meeting with Mark Boyle of DEQ and Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, SRTC's Air Quality Planner next week.

Mr. Mangan would also like to make sure Representative Hart and other legislators are aware of this meeting. Ms. Richardson noted that she believes Mr. Miles has been in discussions with Senator Geodde on the air quality issue and she will ask him to forward this information to the Board.

Mr. Larkin announced that next Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:00 in Post Falls at the City Hall in the Rotunda there will be an open house with the engineers that are doing the design for the Beck Road Interchange. He invites all to come if they are available.

## **10. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

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Jennifer Wash  
Recording Secretary