



CONNECTING WASHINGTON TASK FORCE

Meeting Notes • September 9, 2011

Legislative Building, Olympia

Meeting materials are online at www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/connectwa.asp

Video of the meeting can be found at on TVW's web site at www.tvw.org

A. Call to order and introduction of task force members and facilitator

The Connecting Washington Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday July 19, 2011. Task force members in attendance were:

Governor Chris Gregoire, Chair

Bob Adams, Vice President, Guy F. Atkinson Construction

Rep. Mike Armstrong, Ranking Minority Member, House Transportation Committee

Leo Bowman, Benton County Commissioner

Terry Brewer, Executive Director, Grant County Economic Development Council

Rodney Brown, Board Chair, Washington Environmental Council

Bill Bryant, Port of Seattle Commissioner

Rep. Judy Clibborn, Chair, House Transportation Committee

Richard Ford, Chair, Transportation Commission

Mike Fredrickson, Port of Walla Walla Commissioner

Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County Commissioner

Paula Hammond, Secretary, Department of Transportation

Fred Jarrett, Deputy King County Executive

Jeff Johnson, President, Washington State Labor Council

Glen Squires, on behalf of Alex McGregor, President, The McGregor Company

Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma Commissioner

E. Susan Meyer, CEO, Spokane Transit/Incoming President of the Washington Transit Association

David Myers, Executive Secretary, Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council

Janet Ray, on behalf of Kirk Nelson, President and CEO, AAA Washington

Laura Peterson, Vice President of State and Local Government Relations, Northwest Region, The Boeing Company

Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Councilmember

Paul Roberts, Everett City Councilmember

Nick Rocchi, Managing Director Pacific Northwest District, Federal Express

Tim Schauer, Chair-Elect, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

Theresa Sheldon, on behalf of Mel Sheldon, Chairman, The Tulalip Tribes

DeLee Shoemaker, State Government Affairs Director, Microsoft Corporation

Tom Trulove, Mayor of Cheney
Stan Vander Pol, President and CEO, Peninsula Truck Lines
Barbara Wright, Board Member, Transportation Choices Coalition
John Howell, Cedar River Group, facilitator

B. Initial Presentation of identified transportation needs – continued from July meeting

In follow-up to presentations of the currently-identified needs of the various components of the state's transportation systems at the July 9 meeting, the following presentations were made:

- Summary of needs identified at July meeting – Teresa Berntsen, Executive Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
- Tribal transportation systems – Theresa Sheldon, The Tulalip Tribes
- Port needs – Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Washington State Public Ports Associations

C. Task Force Reactions/Discussion of Initial Statements of Need

John Howell facilitated a discussion of the Task Force Members' reactions to the initial statements of need, based on the following questions:

- *What problems are we trying to solve?*
- *Are we clear about the transportation needs that must be addressed?*
- *Are we attempting to address the needs of an integrated statewide transportation system?*

Task force members had a range of comments based on the presentations they have received regarding transportation needs. Several members suggested that transportation investments should support job creation in key industries, getting people to work and goods to market. Several members also mentioned the importance of maintaining existing transportation assets in good condition. It was suggested that the presentations about needs underscored the importance of considering the interdependent and integrated nature of the state transportation system (e.g. managed by different levels of government and including multiple modes of transportation). It was also suggested that the statewide needs are far greater than any single investment strategy can address. Members said that there transportation needs seem to vary from one region to the next.

D. Use of performance measures and benchmarking

Wendy Korthuis-Smith, Director, Governor's Office of Accountability and Performance, gave a [presentation on the use of performance measures and benchmarking](#) to determine system condition and performance. Key points from the presentation are:

- In 2000, the Governor appointed the Blue Ribbon Commission to create a balanced investment plan for the state's transportation system. The Blue Ribbon Commission discussed at length accountability and measuring performance. Of the 18 primary recommendations, most have been fully or partially implemented.

- In 2002, the Legislature directed the Transportation Commission to develop reports based on enacted benchmarks. The Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation (WSDOT) adopted specific measures to evaluate performance against benchmarks.
- These benchmarks proved to be too specific and rigid, and they didn't allow for needed adjustments for changing priorities and policy directions and funding changes. They were repealed in 2007 and replaced with higher level, statewide policy goals.
- The 2007 Legislature implemented a study recommendation that Washington adopt a model based on system of policy goals and objectives to evaluate system performance. They repealed the existing nine transportation benchmarks, establishing overall policy goals.
- The Legislature subsequently directed OFM to develop objectives and performance measures for each policy goal in alignment with gubernatorial and legislative priorities and transportation revenue scenarios, and report results in the Biennial Attainment Report. This report provides a high-level assessment of state's progress in achieving its transportation goals using key performance measures and data.
- Another accountability tool is the Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP), which is a method of performance review that leaders can use to make decisions for the purpose of achieving results.
- Many local jurisdictions use performance data to organize and develop strategic, business and capital investment plans.

E. Discussion of Investment Principles

John Howell facilitated a discussion of investment principles based on the following questions:

- *What are the broad statements of principles or values that should guide investments in the transportation system?*
- *Do these statements address the identified needs?*

Several themes emerged from the lengthy task force discussion of the draft principles.

- ✓ The primary purpose of any transportation investment strategy needs to be about maintaining and creating jobs and supporting the state's economy. The principles should reflect that purpose.
- ✓ The draft list of eight strategies is too long. It needs to be more focused on the most urgent needs.
- ✓ Preserving and maintaining the current transportation assets should be a core element of an investment strategy.

There were also a number of suggestions regarding factors that should be considered when selecting statewide transportation investments.

F. Public Comment Period

Several members of the public gave comment to the Task Force Members. Two members of Washington State Ferry Advisory Councils urged the Task Force to consider the importance of providing sustainable support for the state ferry system. Two speakers (one from the

Recreational Boating Association of Washington and one from the Washington State Snowmobiling Association) urged the Task Force to recommend removal of the cap that exists for boating and snowmobiling improvements on dedicated accounts for outdoor recreation. A fifth speaker from the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments encouraged the Task Force to consider investments that would provide grade separated crossings in key rail corridors, such as ones in Cowlitz County.

G. Research Regarding Transportation Needs

Ian Stewart, Vice President, EMC Research, Inc. provided a summary of existing polling and surveys regarding citizen’s views of statewide transportation needs, priorities, and funding options.

Mr. Stewart than gave a presentation on a survey being conducted by the Transportation Commission. The survey is to provide the Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature with clear data about the attitudes, perceptions, and priorities that drive residents’ thinking about transportation and transportation funding. The data and analysis will help inform specific transportation funding, program and project decisions

EMC Research will reach out to 100,000 adult residents in Washington State to invite them to participate in the survey. They will complete a minimum of 5,000 demographically representative interviews across the state through a web and phone survey. They will also target interviews by the 14 regional transportation planning organizations so that each region of the state has statistically significant data for regional comparisons

Mr. Stewart provided the following timeline for the survey:

Postcard Mailing	Mid September
Data Collection	Mid Sept-Early October
Public Survey	Late Sept -Mid October
Analysis/Reporting	Mid Oct -Mid November
Interim Reports	Ongoing during data collection
Presentations to Agency, Task Force, Legislature and other stakeholders	Late October thru early December

H. Public Education

Governor Gregoire reminded Task Force members about a statement she made at the July 9 Connecting Washington Task Force meeting — it is critical that Washingtonians understand that we have a transportation funding crisis that has to be fixed. It has to be fixed if we expect to have the economic future we could have. It has to be fixed if we expect to have jobs – now and in the future.

Governor Gregoire stated she is counting on the Task Force members to spread that message as we move forward with a real sense of urgency. She indicated that her Director of

Communications, Cory Curtis, will discuss a draft public education plan in which each member has a role. She asked that members get back with her staff in one week with their specific contributions. She thanked the members for their hard work.

Cory Curtis, Communications Director, Office of the Governor, provided Task Force Members an outline of proposed public education activities.

John Howell facilitated a discussion based on the following questions:

- *How can we best describe the statewide transportation needs? How can we help state residents understand the transportation needs facing our state?*
- *How can we establish credibility?*

I. Meeting adjournment

Governor Gregoire thanked the Task Force for its work and stated the next meeting is October 4, 2011 in Olympia.

The Connecting Washington Task Force meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.