

**Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council  
Board of Directors  
November 5, 2013, Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Ganley on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 4 p.m. at the Clark County Public Service Center Sixth Floor Training Room, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. The meeting was recorded by CVTV. Attendance follows.

Voting Board Members Present:

Nancy Baker, Port of Vancouver Commissioner  
Jack Burkman, Vancouver Council Member  
Shirley Craddick, Metro Councilor  
Bill Ganley, Battle Ground Council Member  
Jeff Hamm, C-TRAN Executive Director  
David Madore, Clark County Commissioner  
Doug McKenzie, Skamania Co. Commissioner  
Tom Mielke, Clark County Commissioner  
Melissa Smith, Camas Council Member  
Jeanne Stewart, Vancouver Council Member  
Steve Stuart, Clark County Commissioner  
Don Wagner, WSDOT Regional Administrator  
Rian Windsheimer, ODOT Alternate

Voting Board Members Absent:

David Poucher, White Salmon Mayor  
Jason Tell, ODOT Region One Manager

Nonvoting Board Members Present:

Ed Orcutt, Representative 20<sup>th</sup> District  
Liz Pike, Representative 18<sup>th</sup> District

Nonvoting Board Members Absent:

Curtis King, Senator 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Norm Johnson, Representative 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Charles Ross, Representative 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Don Benton, Senator 17<sup>th</sup> District  
Paul Harris, Representative 17<sup>th</sup> District  
Monica Stonier, Representative 17<sup>th</sup> District  
Ann Rivers, Senator 18<sup>th</sup> District  
Brandon Vick, Representative 18<sup>th</sup> District  
John Braun, Senator 20<sup>th</sup> District  
Richard DeBolt, Representative 20<sup>th</sup> District  
Annette Cleveland, Senator 49<sup>th</sup> District  
Jim Moeller, Representative 49<sup>th</sup> District  
Sharon Wylie, Representative 49<sup>th</sup> District

Guests Present:

Mike Bomar, CREDC  
Katy Brooks, Port of Vancouver  
Pete Capell, Clark County  
Eric Florip, The Columbian  
Bart Gernhart, WSDOT  
Paul Greenlee, Washougal Council Member  
Lee Jensen, Citizen  
Jim Karlock, Citizen  
Dale Lewis, Rep. Herrera Beutler's Office  
Anne McEnery-Ogle, Vancouver Neighborhood Assoc.  
Paul Montague, Identity Clark County  
Sharon Nasset, Citizen  
Jerry Oliver, Port of Vancouver Commissioner  
Ron Onslow, Ridgefield Mayor  
Greg Prothman, Prothman Company  
Matt Ransom, City of Vancouver  
Scott Sawyer, City of Battle Ground  
Larry J. Smith, Vancouver Council Member  
Jeff Swanson, Clark County  
Darren S. Wertz, Ridgefield Council Member  
Katie Whittier, Senator Murray's Office

Staff Present:

Lynda David, Senior Transportation Planner  
Mark Harrington, Senior Transportation Planner  
Bob Hart, Transportation Section Supervisor  
Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director  
Dale Robins, Senior Transportation Planner  
Lare Watters, RTC Legal Counsel  
Diane Workman, Administrative Assistant

**II. Approval of October 1, 2013, Meeting Minutes**

STEVE STUART MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2013, MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JACK BURKMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**III. Citizen Communications**

There were no citizens who wished to comment.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

##### **A. November Claims**

STEVE STUART MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA NOVEMBER CLAIMS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MELISSA SMITH AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

##### **V. RCW 81.104 HCT Requirements, Resolution 11-13-23, Clark County Commissioner David Madore**

Commissioner Madore distributed copies of a new resolution to replace the one that was submitted last month for today's action and read through the resolution. The resolution referred to RTC adopted resolution 07-08-10 and the CRC Locally Preferred Alternative.

Council Member Burkman said the resolution that was just read is not on the agenda. The agenda refers to a completely different resolution. He requested that the Board act on the resolution on the agenda, and if we choose to act on the new resolution, to place it on next month's agenda.

Commissioner Madore said the new resolution is a more simplified resolution. Councilor Burkman said the resolution on the agenda speaks of complying with RCW 81.104 requirements to seek voter approval of the CRC high capacity transit system plan and financing plan and the new resolution speaks of supporting the RTC adopted resolution No. 07-08-10. They are fundamentally different resolutions.

Chair Ganley asked legal counsel, Lare Watters, his opinion of the issue. Mr. Watters said the spirit and intent of both documents is very similar. On the other hand, there are some substantial differences between the two documents. By Board practice, you would typically only take action on a resolution that had been published in advance. This would come up at the next meeting even though by spirit and intent, it is very similar.

Chair Ganley said they can vote on the original resolution, and put the new resolution on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilor Craddick asked legal counsel to explain the referendum that was passed by the voters of Clark County and asked how that influenced the role and the work of the RTC.

Representative Orcutt asked if it was allowable to amend a resolution. Chair Ganley said that yes, it was.

COMMISSIONER MADORE MOTIONED TO SUBSTITUTE THE LANGUAGE OF THE NEW RESOLUTION FOR THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION THAT WAS LISTED ON THE AGENDA.

Chair Ganley asked Mr. Watters to clarify RCW 81.104 and the Attorney General's opinion and to answer Councilor Craddick's question. Mr. Watters asked for more specific questions.

Councilor Craddick said she recognized that a referendum was passes by the citizens of Clark County regarding High Capacity Transit. She said her question is how that vote influences RTC, an MPO, where there is representation from a region as opposed to just the county. Dean Lookingbill said that Proposition One was a C-TRAN resolution for funding for C-TRAN. RTC has no authority over C-TRAN. The vote of the people and elected officials share positions on the RTC Board. Chair Ganley said Proposition One looks at the funding, and it was the

maintenance and operations that went to the voters through C-TRAN. C-TRAN is a member on the RTC Board.

Chair Ganley asked Mr. Watters to address RCW 81.104. Mr. Watters said based on what Mr. Lookingbill said, he said nothing more needed to be added. They are different entities with different sets of authorities.

Commissioner Madore said that the Locally Preferred Alternative was selected by the sponsoring agencies, specifically RTC and C-TRAN. He said they have policies as to how to move a project forward and should follow those. Commissioner Madore said the question is not about 81.104. The question is about whether this Board is going to uphold our commitment with the adopted resolution 07-08-10.

Councilor Burkman said we are on agenda item V which is resolution 11-13-23 that is before this body. We are looking for a motion to approve or not approve this.

Commissioner Madore said he made a motion to substitute the language from the new resolution into the presented resolution, and it has not been seconded.

Councilor Burkman said that would be a substantial change and believed that would be in violation in open public meetings law. That would be fundamentally changing something that has not been advertised to the public.

Chair Ganley noted that Representative Liz Pike had arrived to the meeting. Representative Pike said that Governor Inslee had just had a Press Conference and said that there is a Special Session on Thursday. She said there are five pieces of legislation and part of the package to keep the machinists in Washington State. A reporter asked at the press conference if the CRC was included in the \$10 billion transportation package, his answer was no. Commissioner Stuart asked if the transportation funding package was a part of the special session. Representative Pike said yes it was.

Commissioner Mielke said we are looking at something that was not on the agenda and how we deal with that. He said he heard the motion to replace the yellow resolution that was on the agenda with a new version. He said the intent of the resolution is to recognize 81.104.

Mr. Lookingbill said the yellow resolution included in the meeting packet does address 81.104 and had an Attorney General's opinion. The new resolution that is being offered by Commissioner Madore is completely different in that it refers to resolution 07-08-10 that is the Locally Preferred Alternative resolution that RTC took action on in July of 2008. The new resolution is not talking about 81.104. It is referring to the LPA action that RTC took in 2008.

Commissioner Madore said in order for people to be comfortable with the resolution, he would bring the new resolution to the next RTC meeting.

**DAVID MADORE MOVED TO NOT TAKE ACTION ON RESOLUTION 11-13-23 AND PUT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT RTC BOARD MEETING. TOM MIELKE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Jeanne Stewart asked Commissioner Madore if what he was trying to accomplish was to bring a resolution to the RTC that upholds the conditions that were put on the high capacity transit for the Columbia River Crossing that indicated that whatever means was used to pay would have

voter approval. Commissioner Madore said yes it was. Councilor Stewart said that LPA was approved by the C-TRAN Board in 2008, and that stands today. Commissioner Madore said that C-TRAN was one of the sponsoring agencies and RTC was also a sponsoring agency. RTC also approved the LPA and conditions. Councilor Stewart said RTC accepted C-TRAN's LPA and moved it forward as part of our regional plan.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Jack Burkman requested that copies of the multiple references that are listed on the proposed resolution be included with the resolution next month.

#### **VI. Proposed 2014 RTC Work Plan Emphasis Areas**

Dean Lookingbill presented the proposed areas of emphasis for RTC's 2014 Work Plan for the Board's review and comment. The Board's comments will be incorporated into the final draft 2014 work plan and budget, which will be proposed for adoption at the December 3, 2013, meeting.

Mr. Lookingbill said the significant work element of 2014 will be the *Regional* Transportation Plan update. He noted the suggested name change from the *Metropolitan* Transportation Plan. They will be working with the County to maintain consistency with the update they will be working on with the Growth Management Plan and reflect changing regional transportation system needs that result from a slower 2015 growth forecast, changing demographic and income levels, a shifting Clark County economy, limited transportation revenues, and new emerging transportation policy trends. A comprehensive RTP scoping process would begin in January of 2014 to detail the update process, plan elements, decision-making, and schedule. Final Plan adoption is anticipated in March 2015.

MAP-21, the current federal transportation bill changes the selection process for how federal transportation dollars are invested in our region's transportation system. The intent is to have performance measures and a performance managed program to result in a more efficient investment of federal transportation funds. This will be considerable work that will be integrated into the whole process.

Commissioner Madore referred to the I-205 Access and Operational Study that was listed in the Work Plan. He said he thought information on the capacity of the I-5 and I-205 bridges should be brought to the RTC Board and also be able to consider the relief that a third bridge could bring to the area.

Mr. Lookingbill said the I-205 Access and Operational Study is focused on that corridor. The suggestion that Commissioner Madore has made is more appropriately taken up in the whole RTP update when they look at the entire regional transportation plan county-wide and across the river, should the Board want to entertain that. That could be a part of the initial scoping process. Commissioner Madore said anything that could be provided to them ahead of time to prepare for that would be helpful.

The Human Services Transportation Plan will be updated in 2014, which is another significant undertaking required in 2014.

Mr. Lookingbill noted the continuing transportation program activities and program coordination Work Plan elements. This program of activities establishes the framework for RTC to meet the

federal and state mandated continuing regional transportation planning, programming, and prioritization requirements needed to maintain the region's eligibility for the receipt of state and federal transportation funds. These work elements include continuation of Vancouver Area Smart Trek (VAST) and Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) efforts including use of blue tooth data and how to actively manage the traffic data stream.

Steve Stuart said that county transportation staff is updating their concurrency modeling program. The data that RTC is gathering will be used for the update to the concurrency program. Mr. Lookingbill said this refers to the collection of the data. He said listed under the modeling element is how to go to a 2-hour peak period.

In addition, RTC will work with Metro to reconvene the Bi-State Coordination Committee in 2014. They will continue to work with Skamania and Klickitat Counties Regional Transportation Programs. RTC staff will complete the federally required FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), update the Congestion Management Process, as well as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It was noted that an updated list of acronyms would be helpful.

Commissioner Madore questioned who best, RTC or the County, to invest in updated data gathering devices. He said rubber hoses on the roadway for traffic counting are from the 1970s. He said we need technology that provides real-time information. Mr. Lookingbill said that has always been done with partnerships with local jurisdictions. RTC has not been in the position of buying and owning the equipment. They work with all the jurisdictions to bring all the information together. Commissioner Madore asked which jurisdiction collects data for SR-14 and the two bridges. Don Wagner said WSDOT collects that data. He said the technology has been used for many years, because it is transportable. If a local agency were to put in a detection system that was capable of doing the counts, they would be happy to tap into it. Otherwise, they have to move the tubes all over the state every other year on every entrance ramp to the freeway and the exit ramps to the freeway as well as state highway mainlines. It is a requirement for them to have accurate data. That technology works very well to give them accurate information. This information needs to be collected at a certain time of the year to be able to match year to year, month to month information. Mr. Wagner said that can be done on all 2,300 lane miles of state highway in this region. It would be quite costly to do otherwise, and the state legislature has not given them money to do that. Mr. Wagner said when they use a consultant to collect counts, they use rubber tubes and counters.

Commissioner Madore said the county has Rob Klug who gathers a lot of electronic information. If the county were to mount devices and feed it into our system, he asked if there was an open door with WSDOT that would welcome that. Mr. Wagner said they would be happy to talk with any local jurisdiction that had that opportunity.

Mr. Lookingbill said they will continue to provide Regional Travel Demand Modeling services and will be updating the overall model software. Mr. Lookingbill also said RTC will soon be launching an updated website, and hope to provide a preview for the Board at the December 3 Board meeting. RTC's overall planning and program support activities will also continue in 2014.

Mr. Lookingbill said he would include the comments received today in the final work plan to bring back in December along with a proposed budget for approval.

Commissioner Madore questioned RTC's website redesign and referenced the County's new design of "the grid". Mr. Lookingbill said RTC's current website is many years old. The new website will be significantly improved. It is hoped to have it up and running live by the end of this year. An example will be provided at the December meeting.

#### **VII. RTC's Draft Public Participation Plan, Release for Public Comment Review**

Lynda David referred to the memorandum included in the meeting packet along with the Draft Public Participation Plan. The Board is being asked to review the draft document and approve its release for a mandatory 45-day public comment period prior to adoption.

Ms. David said the existing Public Participation Plan was adopted by the RTC Board on August 7, 2007 to comply with the federal transportation act in existence at that time, SAFETEA-LU, as well as state public outreach requirements for the RTPO. Federal law requires that the MPO periodically evaluate the Public Participation Process and update the Plan to reflect current practices.

Ms. David highlighted the consistent general requirements of the Public Participation Process included in federal regulations. She said there are specific requirements for Public Participation and outreach relating to the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. RTC also commits to coordinate with statewide public involvement and consultation efforts. If significant written and oral comments are received, they should be documented. Ms. David said when an updated Plan is drafted, there needs to be a minimum 45-day public comment period offered before its adoption, and there has to be consultation and coordination with other planning activities including state and local agencies, tribal governments and resource agencies.

The draft Plan update includes seven major sections and Ms. David gave a brief description of each. She also noted that the draft Plan that was provided will be edited to include photos and graphics before being sent out for public comment.

Ms. David noted the Plan's process and timeline. The draft Plan was reviewed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee at the October meeting. Today, they are asking RTC Board to approve release of the draft Public Participation Plan update for a 45-day public comment period. Consultation with state and federal environmental planning partners will take place and the draft update public release will coincide with publicity, media releases, and legal notice of the proposed action. Staff plans to seek Board approval of the updated Public Participation Plan at the January 7, 2014 meeting.

Commissioner Stuart said regarding the Public Participation Methods and Techniques, in the past they have relied on open houses and information gathering where they have to come to us. He said he would like to see more of an emphasis on webinars, and actively seeking information using social media, and electronic technology. Commissioner Stuart said even our Legislators are setting up telephone Town Halls. Look for ways to reach out to the citizens to get information out to them and feedback from them as opposed to them finding us.

Jeff Hamm said he didn't see in section 5 references to accessing populations of limited English proficiency, or persons that are vision impaired or hearing impaired. Ms. David said more needed to be added in that respect. She said with RTC's new website, there will be translation capabilities as well.

Commissioner Madore added to what Commissioner Stuart referred to. He said we can do so much better when it comes to engaging with the community electronically smart. He said the website can also list projects that are being planned or proposed. Also, a form that people can submit comments on those as well.

Chair Ganley said that the language needs to be simplified so that it is understandable to the public. Mr. Lookingbill said that is what they are trying to do with the website, to make all of that more visible.

Jack Burkman suggested involving Director Sheila Martin with the Institute of Metropolitan Studies and also Dr. Carolyn Long of WSU Vancouver. They might have a better idea of what the most modern methods are for reaching people.

### **VIII. Other Business**

#### From the Board

Chair Ganley said elections of 2014 RTC Board Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the December meeting. The practice has been to move the Vice Chair to the Chair position. There is a rotation on those seats with the Vice Chair going to the County in 2014. The Secretary and Treasurer positions have been performed by the Transportation Director.

Steve Stuart said that in hearing that there will be a Special Session of the Legislature this Thursday and especially if they are going to be talking about a transportation funding package, there have been a lot of discussion locally that if there is not mega project funding that is provided for the Columbia River Crossing, that is \$450 million that should come back to SW Washington of new taxes that are being charged to our residents. He said we have a responsibility to make sure we get a list of projects or some consistent message to our legislators about needing there to be that amount of money coming back to where it was raised. He said we have been a donor county for way too long, and we have a threat for being an even bigger donor county. We need to be able to do something to say that money generated here needs to come back here, and it needs to help fund local and regional priorities.

Rian Windsheimer with ODOT noted that they have recently completed a project which added an auxiliary lane on I-84 eastbound from the Halsey Street (exit 7) to I-205 northbound (exit 8). The new northbound I-205 exit lane is next to the current two eastbound through lanes. Construction of this project will provide a smoother flow of traffic, reduce back-ups on I-84 and improve safety. It will be intermittently open between now and December as they finalize completion.

Commissioner Madore said related to website information, it would be useful to include the information that shows how much money is being collected from SW Washington and how much is coming back to SW Washington and update it every month.

From the Director

Mr. Lookingbill announced his resignation. Due to circumstances that are in the State Supreme court regarding PERS retirement that would have a significant impact on him, his last day will be December 27, 2013. Jack Burkman said current law says that we cannot use his services for a period of time. Mr. Lookingbill said he would do all that he can to have things in order and to help in getting the new director on board.

Mr. Lookingbill noted C-TRAN Board of Directors meets at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at the Vancouver Community Library. JPACT meets Thursday, November 14, 2013, at Metro at 7:30 a.m.

The next RTC Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 4 p.m.

**IX. Executive Session, Executive Director Search Process 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. to review resumes of possible candidates in the search process for an Executive Director. The meeting was reconvened at 6:15 p.m. It was the Boards decision to include the full voting Board Members in the interview process that would take place on November 22, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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William J. Ganley, Board of Directors Chair