

**FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 20, 2017**  
**Olympia, WA**

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Mr. John Creighton; Mr. Erik Hansen; Mr. Johan Hellman; Mr. Tom Trulove; Mr. Roger Millar; and Mr. Bob Watters.

**WELCOME**

Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting with introductions.

**MINUTES**

Chair Dan Gatchet entered a motion to adopt the November 17, 2016 minutes. Mr. Creighton so moved to approve the minutes with corrections to page 1, paragraph 2, Presentations, from Leonard to LaPorte and page 4, paragraph 1, Board Member Reports, insert which alleged. Mr. Hellman seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LEGISLATIVE PANEL**

Senators Curtis King and Steve Hobbs with Representatives Judy Clibborn and Ed Orcutt spoke to the Board about the 2017 session and issues dealing with transportation and freight in particular. In a bipartisan bill prefiled for consideration in the 2017 legislative session, the two chairs said they had arrived at an equitable solution to the state's need to comply with federal mandates of the REAL ID Act of 2005.

The legislators expressed concern that despite the passage of transportation revenue packages in the Legislature, there are still significant challenges and unmet needs for new transportation investments as well as for maintaining and preserving the current transportation system.

Advancements in technology are leaning more towards alternatives to fossil fuels, which has implications for the dependence on the gas tax as the main source of revenue for transportation projects.

**DAY ON THE HILL UPDATE**

The Board members scheduled for meetings with legislators on January 19 included Mr. Creighton, Mr. Hellman, and Mr. Trulove. Also, Mr. Ewers and Executive Director Probart were scheduled for meetings. Mr. Trulove reported that the objective this year was to reintroduce legislators to FMSIB and explain our mission. The meetings are also an opportunity to get feedback about freight or other transportation issues in their district. Mr. Trulove reported that the Board members were impressed with the efficient scheduling and the numerous

legislators they were able to meet with in one day. The documents provided for the meetings were very helpful and an asset to the discussions in the meetings.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Jason Beloso, WSDOT, briefed the Board on the WSDOT 2016 Truck Parking Study. WSDOT initiated the study in order to assess the state's capacity for truck parking and to build upon WSDOT's previous truck parking efforts. The types of truck parking considered in this study include brief, day rest breaks, longer overnight rest breaks, waiting at a port or receiver gate, long-term parking or truck storage and local delivery in urban areas. WSDOT identified key industry stakeholders, best practices from other states, factors influencing parking demand, truck parking supply and capacity, key truck parking concerns, opportunities for improvements, and next steps toward truck parking activities.

Craig Stone, WSDOT, briefed the Board on the status of the Puget Sound Gateway Program, which is comprised of two projects, SR 509 and SR 167. These projects make major improvements to relieve traffic congestion and improve freight mobility. The Gateway Program is the key to enhancing the state's economic competitiveness, both nationally and globally, by connecting the state's largest ports to key distribution centers in King and Pierce counties and to eastern Washington. Over the past twelve months, technical committees and executive committees have been working toward narrowing four scenarios for each project down to a single scope of work for both SR 509 and SR 167.

WSDOT is requesting an amendment to the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to include \$229 million of this funding for three current projects: SR 509/I-5 and SR 516 Interchange to 28<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; SR 167/I-5 to SR 509 Stage 1; and SR 167/I-5 to SR 161 Stage 2.

Recently WSDOT applied for a US Department of Transportation FASTLANE grant for the Puget Sound Gateway Program.

The Board heard from Chris Herman, WPPA, and Ashley Probart, FMSIB Executive Director, regarding the update to the Washington State Marine Cargo Forecast. The findings will help decision-makers achieve a better understanding of the movement of freight in the state and the region. The study is under final review and scheduled to be published prior to the end of the 2017 legislative session.

Beth Redfield, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), and Dave Catterson, Association of Washington Cities, gave an overview of the Road-Rail Conflicts Study. The phrase "road-rail conflict" is used to describe potentially problematic at-grade crossings. Examples of potential conflicts include the following:

- Long and unpredictable travel delays for both motorists and freight carriers
- Collisions between trains and vehicles or pedestrians
- Temporary increases of emergency response times

With the growth of the state's population and increasing road and rail traffic, communities throughout the state are concerned about the reliable and safe movement of rail and truck freight, general traffic, and emergency vehicles across more than 2,180 public, active at-grade railroad crossings. In response to this concern, the Legislature in 2015 appropriated funds to the Joint Transportation Committee to evaluate the impacts of prominent road-rail conflicts and develop a corridor-based prioritization process for addressing the impacts on a statewide level. (Washington cities funded the study from their share of the gas tax).

This study developed a prioritization process for at-grade crossings based on specific evaluation criteria that considered local, regional, and statewide policy interests. It is the first study of its kind, utilizing a data-driven approach to perform a comprehensive evaluation of at-grade crossings on a statewide basis.

Beth and Dave also activated the website and provided examples of conflicts the database identified.

At this point, the JTC has completed its work. The study did make several recommendations, including continuing to update the information, establishing the database with an agency or organization, and establishing a multi-stakeholder group to provide oversight of the information and potentially identify project recommendations.

### **FREIGHT STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES**

Executive Vice President Sheri Call, Washington Trucking Associations, discussed various issues important to the trucking industry for the 2017 Legislative session: low carbon fuel standards, alternative fuel discussions and the transportation revenue package. She emphasized that the important aspect to every trucking company is safety. To this end, The WTA offers several programs and services to help its members save money and be more efficient.

Chris Herman, Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA), discussed issues the WPPA supports. A priority issue is to modernize port broadband authority. Port districts have the authority to provide wholesale telecom infrastructure, with certain limitations. Several aspects of the authority need to be modernized to develop networks and provide fundamental broadband speeds necessary to retain and grow businesses, foster educational institutions, and provide medical services.

WPPA has consistently supported funding for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). CERB is a state agency that provides funding to local governments and federally recognized tribes for public infrastructure that supports private business growth and expansion. They have supported additional funding for CERB loans and grants as well as increases in CERB technical staffing levels. WPPA has led efforts to reform median wage requirements placed on certain projects.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Probart reported that both the operating budget and capital budget remain on target. Although current capital expenditures appear to be low, nearly every project for the biennium is under contract and billings will increase over the next several months.

Executive Director Probart also provided an overview of Project #58, East Marginal Way. This project is now complete.

Chair Dan Gatchet entered a motion to move Project #58, East Marginal Way, to the completed list. Mr. Watters moved and Mr. Trulove seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Dan Gatchet entered a motion to hold the March 17, 2017, FMSIB meeting in Fife WA. Mr. Trulove moved and Mr. Hellman seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Dan Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**



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Dan Gatchet  
Chair



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Attest: Ashley Probart  
Executive Director

