

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2018
Spokane Valley, WA

Board Members Present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Secretary Roger Millar; Mr. Johan Hellman; Mr. Art Swannack; Mr. John McCarthy; Mr. Leonard Barnes (participated by conference call); Mr. Matt Ewers and Mr. Ben Wick.

Board Members Not Present: Mr. Pat Hulcey, Mr. Bob Watters, Mr. Erik Hansen, and ex officio Aaron Hunt.

WELCOME

Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting with welcoming comments and the introduction of FMSIB's two new Board members, John McCarthy and Ben Wick. All Board members introduced themselves.

City of Spokane Valley Mayor Rod Higgins welcomed the Board and gave a brief overview of the city's projects. He thanked the Board for their project funding contributions to date and highlighted future freight projects for the Board's consideration.

**CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY PROJECT UPDATES-ADAM JACKSON, P.E.,
PLANNING & GRANTS ENGINEER**

Mr. Adam Jackson gave an update/overview of three FMSIB projects. Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation and Barker Road Corridor-Spokane River to BNSF are both on FMSIB's active project list. Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation is on FMSIB's deferred project list and is up for review to cancel.

The city is requesting the FMSIB Board approve the phasing of funds for the *Barker Road Corridor-Spokane River to BNSF Project #99*. This is not a request for increase in funds, but a request for the original award amount of \$1,680,000 to be distributed across three segments. The city requests FMSIB allocate \$509,227 to the first phase of the project. Secretary Millar expressed a concern about scope creep, and Mr. Jackson stated that the city and other granting agencies are aware of this issue. Secretary Millar also questioned if the city has considered implementing a local improvement district or a transportation benefit district to help fund the cost of this project. Sabrina Minshall, Executive Director of the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), shared that SRTC is in full support of the city's approach to phase this project and commends their efforts. SRTC has money in phase 1 & 2 of this project and is committed to seeing this project completed.

Chair Gatchet entertained a motion for \$509,277 of FMSIB money be spent on Phase 1 of the City of Spokane Valley Barker Road Corridor Project #99. Secretary Millar so moved and Mr. Ewers seconded. Mr. Wick recused.

MOTION CARRIED

Secretary Millar recommended FMSIB conduct an annual review/update to monitor the progress of this project. Mayor Higgins emphasized that the city very committed to this project and has already approved the hiring of new engineers to keep this project moving forward.

Mr. Jackson discussed the status of FMSIB's *Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project #D* that was deferred in 2007. This project is a very high priority for city and since it is progressing, the city requests FMSIB not cancel the project. Design work has begun, and the city is actively seeking to procure funds. Director Ziegler reminded the Board that no money has been allocated to this project since it was moved to the deferred list in 2007. If the project remains on the deferred list, the city would have to come back to the Board and request the money but they would not have to reapply. WSDOT was the original applicant for this project before Spokane Valley became incorporated. The Board can ask for reassessment of the freight benefits.

SPOKANE REGION FREIGHT ISSUES –
SABRINA MINSHALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SRTC
MIKE ULRICH, SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNER, SRTC

SRTC Executive Director Minshall and Mr. Mike Ulrich reviewed the region's transportation funding history and discussed the current regional freight planning strategies.

MINUTES-SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

The following changes were requested:

- Secretary Millar requested "*WSDOT*" be deleted from page 4 under Codification Legislation.
- Mr. Johan Hellman requested to change "*innovating*" to *innovative* and insert comma after "*and*" on page 6 under Committee Recommendation to the Board.

Chair Gatchet entertained a motion to accept the minutes with the above corrections to pages 4 and 6. Mr. Swannack so moved and Mr. Barnes seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

FMSIB BUDGETS (2017-19)

Director Ziegler provided a brief overview of the Operating and Capital Budget. The Operating Budget is on target and at seven percent under budget. Director Ziegler noted the changes in the Capital Budget since the last report at the September 21 Board meeting. The most significant change was due to the Lander Street Grade Separation Project #99 total project estimate forecasted to come in lower than expected (down from \$140 million to \$100 million). FMSIB 2017-19 biennial expenditures forecasted will now be down \$3 million, which leaves an additional \$3 million available for FMSIB to award to other projects. The Director is forecasting the biennial expenditure percentage to drop from 73% to 58%, mostly due to the Lander Street Project change.

Several FMSIB Board members suggested that FMSIB's approach to funding projects be an item of discussion at the May 2019 workshop.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please see the meeting packet for further details on the following topics addressed in the Director's Report:

- Road-Rail Conflicts Study – Phase 2 Update
- FMSIB Member Appointments
- Project Status Updates (Spokane County-Bigelow Gulch/Forker Road Realignment & City of Seattle-Lander Street Grade Separation)
- FMSIB Annual Report
- Potential New FMSIB Project (City of Connell)
- JTC Air Cargo Study
- Codification Legislation
- FMSIB Process Improvement Efforts
- Meetings and Conferences

Secretary Millar inquired if there has been a response from the Legislature on the Road-Rail Phase 2 Study. Chris Herman, WPPA, stated they have not heard anything specific. Mr. Ron Pate expressed a concern that projects prioritized in the study may not be eligible for federal funding.

DIRECTOR PURCHASE AUTHORITY

In response to a request at the September 2018 Board meeting, Director Ziegler provided the Department of Enterprise Service's letter granting the FMSIB Director purchasing authority of up to \$50,000 based on FMSIB's procurement needs and the overall low risk level. The Board decided it was not necessary for the Director to seek any purchasing approval from the Board for expenditures up to \$50,000. The Board directed Director Ziegler to continue his current practice in keeping the Board apprised of any significant expenditures.

No action taken.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Ewers, Mr. Trulove, and Mr. Swannack attended the Bigelow Gulch Road ribbon cutting on Tuesday, October 30. Mr. McCarthy shared the largest vessel ever to call at the Port of Tacoma arrived on November 1. The Thalassa Axia is 1,200 feet long with 14,000 TEU capacity. The Seaport Alliance is developing steps in order to compete with Canadian ports. Mr. Ewers stated that the Washington Trucking Associations (WTA) is concerned about independent drivers being targeted with more regulations. Secretary Millar gave an update on management-level personnel changes at WSDOT. Truck platooning is an interest in Washington State. Mr. Barnes acknowledged WSDOT's excellent presentation at the Grays Harbor RTPO meeting and noted that the Port of Grays Harbor purchased 45 acres from WSDOT (the former pontoon graving yard) for a marine terminal operation.

REVISIT CONNELL PROJECT

This topic has been postponed until the January 17, 2019 Board meeting.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Director Ziegler provided the below list of completed projects requiring Board action to move the projects from *active to completed status*:

No.	Owner	Name	Date	Comments
51-4	Seattle	Duwamish Spot Improvement-4th Ave S	1/4/2018	
85-0	Port of	Bulk Facility Track Relocation	8/21/2018	
64-1	Port of Tacoma	Port of Tacoma Road I/C - wetland mitigation site	8/22/2018	This is a portion of the Port of Tacoma Road I/C Phase 1 & 2
68-0	City of Lacey	Hogum Bay Road Truck Route	8/31/2018	
81-0	Spokane County	Bigelow Gulch/Forker Road Realignment	10/30/2018	
92-0	Skagit County	Burlington Northern Overpass Replacement Project	anticipated 11/30/18	

Chair Gatchet entertained motion to accept Director Ziegler's recommendation to move the above projects from active to completed status. Mr. Wick so moved and Mr. McCarthy seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

CANCELED AND DEFERRED PROJECTS

Director Ziegler recommended the Board approve to cancel the below projects:

No.	Name	Year Deferred	Year Eligible for Cancellation
33	I-90 Argonne to Sullivan-Spokane	2011	2017
60	Willis Street Grade Separation-Kent	2012	2018
69	70th Avenue E Phase II-Fife	2010	2016

Chair Gatchet entertained a motion to accept Director Ziegler's recommendation to move the above projects from deferred to canceled status. Mr. Swannack so moved and Mr. Ewers seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

The Board *did not take action to cancel the below projects:*

Pines Rd BNSF Grade Crossing Project #D-Spokane Valley

The City of Spokane Valley requested the Board not cancel this project since it is a priority, and the city is taking steps to advance this project. The Board has agreed not to cancel at this time but will review the progress of this project in one year.

SR 202 Corridor Improvement (Trestle) Project #57 (Phase 2)-Woodinville

The City of Woodinville requested the Board not cancel this project since they are authorizing design funds in their 2019-20 Fiscal Year. The Board has agreed not to cancel at this time but will review the progress of this project in one year.

Secretary Millar suggested the Board consider discussing the current process for deferred projects at the Board retreat.

ANNUAL REPORT - KJRI LUND

Ms. Lund solicited feedback from the Board on design ideas, draft annual report, and possible leave-behind gifts. She will make the recommended changes and continue to work closely with Director Ziegler on this report.

2019 LEGISLATURE - BRIAN ZIEGLER / TOM TRULOVE

Director Ziegler and Mr. Trulove reviewed the 2019 Legislator Talking points. As the former FMSIB Legislative Committee Chair, Mr. Trulove gave an overview to the Board of FMSIB's Day on the Hill goals, process, and procedures. He shared that FMSIB is very well received on the hill and it is important to remind legislators of FMSIB's mission. It is also important to meet with new committee members, as well as check-in with Chairs to express our appreciation in supporting FMSIB.

Secretary Millar feels that codifying funds ties legislators' hands, and he does not support the legislation. Mr. McCarthy questioned if it would be better first to address any changes FMSIB may want to make in funding allocations then consider codification. Mr. Trulove noted that the Association of Washington Cities would be in full support of codification.

Mr. Hellman questioned if codification is truly a priority in the few minutes FMSIB has with the legislators. Chair Gatchet suggested FMSIB postpone pursuing codification but support CRAB and TIB in their efforts. Secretary Millar suggested that maybe it is more important to ask legislators to put funds in FMSIB's budget for the road-rail conflict projects.

Director Ziegler summarized his sense from the Board is to downplay codification this session. The 2019 Legislator Talking Points will be updated to reflect Board discussion.

POTENTIAL TVW SPONSORSHIP

The Board discussed the options for FMSIB's 20th year recognition on TVW and directed Director Ziegler to finalize acquiring sponsorships for the \$25,000 program titled "*Washington Road Trip.*"

Chair Gatchet entertained a motion for Director Ziegler to proceed with the TVW plan as submitted. Mr. Ewers so moved and Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Chair Dan Gatchet entertained a motion to hold the next FMSIB Board meeting on January 17-18, 2019, in Olympia, WA. Secretary Millar so moved and Mr. Wick seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

Chair Dan Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Dan Gatchet
Chair



Attest: Brian Ziegler
Director