

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2022 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. • Vancouver, WA
TVW Recording [FMSIB 13-18-22](#)

In Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Gatchet, Chair	Anne McEnery-Ogle	Virtual:
Peter Bennett	Roger Millar	Leonard Barnes
Matt Ewers	Art Swannack	Erik Hansen
Johan Hellman	Ben Wick	
Temple Lentz	Ex officio Aaron Hunt	Not Present: None
John McCarthy		

FMSIB STAFF

Brian Ziegler, Director	Gena Workman, Immediate past
Sally See, Executive Assistant	Executive Assistant

GUEST PRESENTERS

Jason Beloso, WSDOT

Meeting Convenes

Chair Dan Gatchet convened the meeting at 9 a.m. and stated this board meeting is being conducted in accordance with state and local health guidelines regarding COVID-19 and public meetings. Some members of the public and some participants may choose not to participate in person, so the meeting is being conducted via Zoom teleconferencing software. The meeting is also live-streamed on TVW, and archives of the broadcast will be available shortly after today's meeting. This is an open public meeting and all provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) apply, as amended by recent orders of the Governor.

Board members introduced themselves, and the new Executive Assistant, Sally See, was introduced and welcomed by the Board.

Review of March 17, 2022, Board Tours

The Board expressed appreciation to Mayor McEnery-Ogle for coordinating the Port of Vancouver and the I-5 Bridge Tours.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Board Action Item: Adoption of the January 14, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION:

Chair Gatchet entertained a motion to adopt the January 14, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Ewers so moved to adopt the minutes and Mayor McEnerny-Ogle seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

FMSIB Budgets

Director Ziegler reviewed the Operating and Capital Budgets.

Operating Budget: FMSIB is on track with the Operating Budget and there were no changes from the 2022 Legislature.

Capital Budget:

2021-23 Capital Budget Chart – The Legislature authorized the \$1.5 million increase to the Port of Kalama project, as proposed by the Board. The Port of Kalama is still on track to deliver by June 2023. FMSIB’s portion is funded up front. Director Ziegler suggested the Board consider a tour of the Port of Kalama in 2023. As requested at the January board meeting, notes on Board approvals for changes have been included on this chart.

Project Status (delivery milestones) Chart –Spokane County has started construction on last phase of the Bigelow Gulch project. FMSIB funded five phases of this project. West Cashmere Bridge will be complete June 2022 and the Port of Kalams will begin construction this spring. Spokane Valley, Barker Road Widening, has been a challenge to deliver, pending an agreement with the UP railroad.

Director’s Report

Please see the Board meeting packet for the complete report on Director Ziegler’s activities since the January 14, 2022, Board meeting. A few key points are as follows:

Freight Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC)

This FMSIB Committee was formed to develop recommendations to the Board regarding the provisos in FMSIB’s 2021-23 Budget. The Committee members include Committee Chair Mayor Ben Wick, Commissioner John McCarthy, Matt Ewers, Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, and Temple Lentz. FMSIB Chair Gatchet has been attending meetings, as well as Ron Pate and Jason Beloso from WSDOT.

The FPAC met every two weeks between April 26 and September 7. In those 10 meetings, the Committee has reviewed the proviso language, developed guiding principles, developed a framework for identifying and prioritizing freight investments, addressed specific proviso issues (like the definition of “freight,” what “geographic equity” means, and what level of project readiness the Legislature expects). The Committee also recently began discussing potential freight project eligibility and prioritization criteria.

At the September 16 Board workshop, members heard Representative Fey’s views on the proviso. The next day, the Board discussed several new ideas and asked the FPAC to continue working and

report to the Board on their progress. The FPAC met four more times. The last meeting was held on November 8.

At the November 19 meeting, the Board adopted a draft report, which was finalized by FPAC members in the ensuing days and approved by FPAC on November 29. The final Phase 1 Report to the Legislature and Governor was submitted November 30. No response was received from the Legislature.

FMSIB staff prepared a work plan for Phase 2 and presented it to Chair Gatchet and FPAC Chair Wick on December 15. They both approved the direction of the work plan and requested an additional FPAC meeting before the January 14 Board meeting. The FPAC and WSDOT staff met on January 6. Revisions were made to the draft Workplan, which was approved at the January 14 Board meeting.

FPAC met February 14 to discuss important elements of the Phase 2 work in preparation for a February 22 presentation to the MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee meeting. The Coordinating Committee met to review FPAC's recommendations to date and to offer suggested improvements. Those organizations present agreed to assist FMSIB in developing freight project investment ideas based on their adopted regional transportation plans. After the meeting, the Coordinating Committee developed a point of contact list for each of the 18 organizations and shared it with FMSIB staff.

FPAC met February 28 to review the feedback from the Coordinating Committee and made edits to the important elements of the Phase 2 work. That February 28 FPAC work product is included in the March Board packet. The FPAC meets one more time before the Board meeting and will present an updated work product.

2022 Legislative Session

FMSIB staff has been busy tracking various versions of the agency's budget and meeting with stakeholders to discuss developments. Today's meeting agenda will include a detailed report of the legislative budget proposals and subsequent amendments.

2021 Annual Report

An annual report is required by statute and was completed in January. The final report was emailed to 755 recipients and printed copies mailed to four recipients.

Board Terms

Director Ziegler reminded Board members whose terms expire June 30 to apply online for reappointment.

Board Member Reports

Chair Gatchet and Mr. Bennett – Ms. Megan Hoyt, SDOT, gave Chair Gatchet, Mr. Bennett and Director Ziegler a tour of the East Marginal Way project. Mr. Bennett commented on how much we underappreciate what people are doing to help improve freight.

Mr. Ewers & Ms. Sheri Call (WTA) – Trucking issues are not going away. Retirees are not being backfilled by younger employees. Parking and safe places to stay overnight are still a significant problem. WTA promotes training programs for high school students. There is \$2.5 million in funding to help develop driver training programs.

Mr. Hansen – The budget included funding for DOL to review commercial driver’s licensing barriers.

Mr. Hellman – The Salmon Bay Rail Bridge in Seattle will undergo a program of heavy maintenance in coming years to continue delivering reliable service for decades to come. Mr. Hellman will provide updates as the project advances.

Secretary Millar – WSDOT has been working with a small shipper who imports from India and has had significant problems with demurrage and port costs. In 2020, the cost per container was \$850 and as of January, it is now over \$6,000. WSDOT has been working with NWSA to resolve. Some larger businesses can create a supply chain process to get them through, but not small shippers who can’t get information. Maybe FMSIB needs to be looking at this problem.

Commissioner Swannack – Agriculture is being heavily impacted by the supply chain problems. Fertilizer costs have tripled since last summer, a lot of which comes from Russia and Asia.

Commissioner McCarthy - Attended a maritime conference and had the opportunity to talk to federal maritime employees. They predict the supply chain problem will last throughout year. Continue to see challenges with data sharing.

Phase 2 Proviso Report - Update

Director Ziegler reviewed the updates to the FMSIB 2022 Statewide Freight Project Identification Process.

FPAC Chair Wick provided an update on the FPAC proviso work. Since the Legislature did not provide feedback after submitting the Phase 1 Report, FPAC is assuming FMSIB is on the right path. Phase 2 of the report is a prioritized list of investments, and they are targeting to have an interim list by the June board meeting. MPOs/RTPOs have been asked to provide information from their existing plans by May 15.

Board Discussion

After Board discussion, FPAC Chair Wick stated FPAC focus on the following priorities: intermodal facilities, truck parking, systems improvements, and a list of projects.

Councilor Lentz suggested FPAC bring back three key priorities to the Board in June.

Future Agenda Item: FPAC will provide Phase 2 Proviso Report Update in June.

Legislative and Budget Update

Director Ziegler provided a summary of the 16-year new law revenue budget proposals and the current law revenue proposals related to FMSIB issues. A detailed report is provided in the Board packet.

There is an unprecedented amount of money coming to Transportation from the General Fund; however, nothing for local governments.

Director provided the below Conference Committee changes since the mailing of the Board packet:

- HEAL Act requirement reinstated with language allowing FMSIB, CRAB, and TIB to opt into the Act requirements.

- \$10 million per entity is provided for CRAB and TIB for additional preservation (funded at \$80 million over the 16-yr Move Ahead WA plan).
- \$5 million from at-grade rail crossing is moved from FMSIB to WSDOT – Local (and funded for 5 years in the Move Ahead WA plan).

FMSIB’s LEAP list has been adopted for the next two bienna.

WSDOT Freight Plan Update

Mr. Jason Beloso, WSDOT Strategic Planning Manager, provided an update to the Board on WSDOT’s efforts to develop a State Freight Plan and to allocate federal freight formula funding. Here is a summary of the project requests WSDOT received:

- **No. of projects:** 47
- **No. of “intermodal” projects:** 23 (almost 50%, exceeds 30% IJJA cap)
- **Total cost of projects:** \$181 million
- **Average request of NHFP funds:** \$3.8 million (\$181 million / 47 projects)
- **Available NHFP funds - FFY 2022-25 (“Leg mandated FFY 21 funding”):** \$50 million / \$12.5 million per year

WSDOT is in process of collecting a lot of info from experts and looking at ways to effectively present that information. Jason would be happy to provide an update at the June meeting. WSDOT did not ask MPOs/RTPOs for a prioritized list. FMSIB county representatives Councilor Lentz and Commissioner Swannack and have been asked to serve on the Project Selection Committee.

Future Agenda Item: Mr. Beloso will provide a Freight Plan update in June.

June Workshop Agenda

Chair Gatchet shared a list of past FMSIB workshop topics, annual topics, and suggested several new topics for the Board to consider for the June workshop.

Board Discussion

After Board discussion, the Board agreed on the following topics for the June 2, 2022, workshop and to bring in subject experts when possible:

1. Strategic priorities, modes
2. Next Phase of proviso report (“Strategic Investments”)
 - a. Truck Parking
 - b. Systems
 - c. Intermodal Facilities (NWSA?)
 - d. List of FMSIB-like investments? (The other seven!)
3. Off-dock discussions reaching a crescendo (e.g., POT Maytown Facility). Maybe more interest in today’s environment (possibly John Wolfe)
4. Include Class 1 Railroad long range plans
5. Class 1’s need a business model that works for them, some customer expectations are pretty high (e.g., Rail-Ex)
6. FMSIB could be the catalyst with the Legislature for reducing on-dock congestion

7. Need a summary of what is causing supply chain congestion (AAPA graphic?)
8. Supply chain disruptions have been episodic and isolated in the past, current issues are more expansive, global and could be permanent. Will outcome be more local-based supply chains?
9. What are the VMT impacts of additional package delivery vehicles on roadways?
10. JTC Truck Parking study, WSDOT Truck Parking pilot
11. Contact Bob Watters regarding off-dock container yard in EWA (Richland)

FMSIB Funding History

Due to time constraints, this presentation was not completed. Chair Gatchet commented that it was important to get through this at the June Workshop.

Next Meeting

Board Action Item: Adopt to hold the June 2 FMSIB workshop and the June 3, 2022, Board meeting in Stevenson, WA.

MOTION: Chair Gatchet entertained a motion to hold the next workshop and board meeting on June 2-3, 2022, in Stevenson, WA. Commissioner Swannack so moved and Councilmember Wick seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned

Chair Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 1 p.m.

Summary of Board Motions:

- 1) Adoption of January 14, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes. (page 1)
- 2) Adoption to hold the June 2 FMSIB workshop and the June 3, 2022, Board meeting in Stevenson, WA. (page 6)

Summary of Future Agenda Items:

- 1) FPAC will provide Phase 2 Proviso Report Update at the June meeting. (page 4)
- 2) Mr. Beloso will provide a Freight Plan update at the June meeting. (page 5)
- 3) See June workshop topics. (page 6)



Dan Gatchet
Chair



Attest: Brian Ziegler
Director