

"FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Olympia, WA

[TVW Recording](#)

In Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS

Temple Lentz, Chair	John McCarthy	<i>Not Present:</i>
Leonard Barnes	Art Swannack by Zoom	Roger Millar
Peter Bennett	Ben Wick	
Matt Ewers	Anne McEnerny-Ogle	
Erik Hansen	Ex officio Aaron Hunt	
Johan Hellman		

FMSIB STAFF

Jane Wall, Interim Executive Director
Sally A. See, Executive Assistant

GUEST PRESENTERS

Jane Wall, Executive Director, County Road Administration Board (CRAB)
Chris Herman, Deputy Director, Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA)
Brandy DeLange, Government Relations Advocate, Asso of WA Cities (AWC)
Alex Swanson, Managing Director, Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC)
Representative Jake Fey, Washington State House of Representatives
Representative Andrew Barkis, Washington State House of Representatives
Senator Curtis King, Washington State Senate
Senator Mark Liias, Washington State Senate

Meeting Convenes

Chair Lentz convened the meeting at 9:15 am and stated that 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.

Chair Temple Lentz requested that Board members introduce themselves, as well as FMSIB Staff. All guests were then asked to introduce themselves.

Public Comment

No one stepped forward.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Item: Adoption of November 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chair Lentz entertained a motion to adopt the November 2022 meeting minutes.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner McCarthy seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

Review Day on the Hill

Chair Lentz – Opened discussion asking Members’ opinion of how Day-on-the-Hill progressed. She also asks that Board Members be ready to discuss their thoughts on proposed legislation HB 1084. This will also be discussed later in this meeting.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle – She received good feedback from Leg members, although she was surprised that more Legislators didn’t know “FMSIB”. But then, most had not opened the link to our Annual Report. Suggested that it might be a good idea to invite Leg Members on fieldtrips to review FMSIB projects in their Districts during the year.

Mr. Bennett – Agreed that inviting Leg Members when our Board Members are in their area to show them the FMSIB projects firsthand.

Several Board members agreed that they were received by Leg Members warmly and were interested in the FMSIB Annual Report and what we have accomplished.

Mr. Ewers and Mayor Wick – Expressed concern that Leg Members continue to have the old impression that FMSIB is not spending their allotted money in a timely manner, although over the last two years we have been more on top of a timely project completion list.

Chair Lentz – In regard to the proposed legislation HB 1084, the Board is looking for clarity for a number of points on the Bill. Although many signed into testimony at the House Committee hearing January 19th as “Pro” for the Bill, the general consensus was that most people weren’t clear on what the Bill would accomplish. After this Board meeting, a Zoom call was scheduled for Thursday, January 26th to discuss the Board’s consensus on questions that we have of Representative Fey to clarify what the Bill really means.

Also, after this Board meeting Representative Fey scheduled a listening session with our Board to be held on February 3rd. Rep Fey plans to make clarifying updates to the Legislation after this Feb 3rd meeting and before it is reheard in the House Transportation Committee.

Executive Director Search

Chair Lentz – The Executive Director’s position recruitment currently closes on February 15th. At the time of this Board meeting, four applications have been put forward by Human Resources and are being reviewed by the FMSIB Transition Team.

FMSIB Budget Reports

Please see the board meeting packet for Budget documents that were discussed.

Jane Wall, Executive Director of County Road Administration Board (CRAB) addressed the FMSIB budgets. Ms. Wall, Mayor Wick, and WSDOT Local Programs Stephanie Tax will be meeting next week to work out FMSIB budget issues. No action will be taken by the Board until budgets are straightened out.

Ms. Wall noted that FMSIB is not alone in not having a clear budget and that it's happening all over the State. Mayor Wick addressed some of the differences between FMSIB budget and what the Governor is aware of.

Board Member Reports – Freight Outreach Efforts

Mr. Bennett – Visited Port of Kalama and was given a tour by the Port's Director of Economic Development, Erik Yakovich. The project details and funding are quite different than what FMSIB is aware of, according to Mr. Yakovich. Mayor Wick will follow up with Mr. Yakovich and pass the information to the Board. A tour of the project area will be requested for the March FMSIB Board meeting.

Mr. Hellman – Provided an update on the railroad labor negotiations national process. He explained how negotiations are done and how unions are again working to ratify the pay increase that was awarded. The union is working with Congress, and everything went as it was supposed to do. The only issue left on the table is workers' paid leave.

Commissioner McCarthy – Spoke to the labor issues on docks and that the crisis negotiations are "radio silent". Cargo is being redirected from the west to the east coast. Activity in Seattle and Tacoma are way down.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle – Gave an update on the negotiations for the new I-5 bridge into Portland. One big issue is discovering a way to get trucks on and off the freeway in a smoother fashion. The possibility of a "freight only" lane is being discussed. Mr. Hellman noted that plans include having a light rail on the bridge.

Mr. Ewers – Spoke to Spokane's main freight corridor and plans to upgrade the ability for smoother freight movement. (Unable to hear details on TVW)

Update on Washington Ports

Mr. Chris Herman, Deputy Director WPPA presented priorities for Washington Ports.

(See attached handout "Washington Public Ports Association – 2023 Legislative Priorities".)

Update on Washington Cities

Brandy DeLange, Government Relations Advocate, Association of Washington Cities presented priorities for Washington Cities.

(See attached handout "2023 City Legislative Priorities".)

Update on Washington Counties

Axel Swanson, Managing Director, Washington Association of County Engineers (WSAC & WSACE) presented priorities for Washington Counties.

(See attached handout "2023 County Legislative Priorities")

Phase 2 Proviso Report – FPAC Report

Committee Chair Mayor Wick addressed the list of projects sent on January 11th as an attachment to the Proviso Report that was sent to Governor Inslee and Legislative members on December 1, 2022. FMSIB received several responses from MPOs, RTPOs, and WPPA. Mayor Wick demonstrated how the top projects were chosen to be included in the Proviso.

Board Chair Lentz thanked everyone on the FPAC Committee and Committee Chair Wick for all the hours they'd invested in putting together a very solid list of projects to be included in the Proviso sent to the Governor and Legislature.

Working Lunch with Legislative Members – Future of FMSIB

Representative Fey – Intends to bring FMSIB and stakeholders back together to discuss HB 1084 to better understand the language of the Bill. He will not forward the Bill back to Committee until the conversation is had. His intent is to take advantage of the skill set of the FMSIB Board and to have more “forward thinking” in the legislation. He would like the Board to come up with a strategic package of recommendations to produce those projects on the list as soon as possible, not letting the funding sit for 12 years.

Chair Lentz – asked if the Legislature would appropriate a specific dedicated amount for FMSIB to spend. Representative Fey's answer was “Yes”. Senator King's response was, “The Legislature says ‘Here's the money you have in using due diligence to pick projects in a timely manner,’ and not to let the money sit. When a project is stuck, with Legislative approval, take that money and move it over to a project that will benefit in a timely manner.” Senator King added, “We'll figure this out.”

Review of FMSIB Sub-Committee members

Motion Item: Reconfirm FMSIB Sub-committee members. (Contained in Board meeting materials.)

Chair Lentz entertained a motion to reconfirm FMSIB sub-committee members.

Commissioner McCarthy moved to reconfirm FMSIB sub-committee members' list. Mayor McEnerny-Ogle seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

Legislative Review and Board Direction

Chair Lentz discussed proposed HB 1084 and the hearing held January 19th in the House Transportation Committee.

Further discussion and decisions on any consensus made on behalf of the Board were tabled until after further discussion with the FMSIB Board, Legislative Representatives, and Legislative committee representatives once the Substitute HB 1084 is put forward.

Next Meeting

Board Action Item: Adoption to hold the next FMSIB Board meeting on March 17, 2023 at Port of Kalama, WA.

Chair Lentz entertained a motion to affirm the next FMSIB Board meeting be held on March 17, 2023 at Port of Kalama, WA.

Mr. Hellman moved to pass the motion. Commissioner Swannack seconded.

MOTION AFFIRMED

Meeting Adjourned

Chair Lentz adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Summary of Board Motions:

- 1) Adoption of November 18, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes. (page 2)
- 2) Reconfirm FMSIB Sub-committee members. (Contained in Board meeting materials.) (page 4)
- 3) Adoption to hold the next FMSIB Board meeting on March 17, 2023 at Port of Kalama, WA.
- 4) Convene Administration Committee to evaluate applications. (page 2)

Summary of Future Agenda Items:

- 1) Board would like to move forward in inviting Legislative Members on a tour of projects in their Districts whenever a Board member is in their area.
- 2) A virtual Board meeting was scheduled for January 26th to discuss consensus on questions surrounding HB 1084.
- 3) A listening session was scheduled with Representative Fey on February 3rd to discuss HB 1084. Rep Fey plans to make clarifying updates to the Legislation after this Feb 3rd meeting and before it is reheard in the House Transportation Committee.
- 4) We are asking Erik Yakovich of Port of Kalama to review their project with the Board at our March Board meeting.



Temple Lentz
FMSIB Board Chair