



**Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

*Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties*

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**Palouse RTPO Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was held via zoom

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**1. Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions.**

Those present included:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Brian Shinn	Asotin County
Jenny George	Asotin County PTBA Transit
Laura Aukerman	City of Dayton
Ann Parks	City of Pullman
Grant Morgan	Columbia County
David Ocampo	Columbia County Public Transportation
James Wege	Garfield County
Jeff Ruchert	Garfield County Transit
Chris Rasmussen	Port of Clarkston
Jennie Dickinson	Port of Columbia
Kara Riebold	Port of Whitman
Robert Ward	Town of Rosalia
John Shaheen (President)	Washington State University
Art Swannack	Whitman County
Greg Figg	WSDOT Eastern Region
Paul Gonseth	WSDOT South Central Region
Ryan Paulson	City of Dayton
Sean Wells	City of Pullman
Paul Kimmell	Avista – Guest Presenter
Lisa Garrett	Avista – Guest Presenter
Rebecca Couch	Palouse RTPO Director

**2. Public Comments.** None.

**3. Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2023.** Robert Ward motioned to approve. James Wege seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Avista’s EV Level 2 Program (Lisa Garrett, Avista EV Program Manager).** Lisa Garrett provided a presentation on supporting rural access in developing a broad charging network across eastern WA by locating level 2 chargers in small towns. Also looking to site DC fast charging every 40-50 miles along the major corridors. Avista will own/install/maintain level 2 chargers, ideally sited by driver amenities. Drivers get a 25-mile range of driving per 1 hour charging session (\$1 of electricity). Need supportive site host (public or private). Site host is only responsible for electricity

(under \$30/month). Colfax is looking for a DC fast charger site. Also, somewhere between Washtucna and Othello is needed. DC fast chargers provide quick full charge ranging from 15-30 minutes (car battery goes from empty to full). Currently DC chargers are \$0.35/kilowatt hour. Feedback from a DC charger user said that lines are long at these chargers (in cities) and full charge takes more like an hour. An 80% charge gets about 100-120 miles. Experience also showed that many of the charging stations were out of order where these DC chargers were located. Chris with Port of Clarkston shared that they have two level 2 chargers and one DC charger at their location, and they are full every day. For public agencies, electricity is provided for free and may be considered a gift of public funds, so need to be aware of this when installing. Jennie with Port of Columbia has three chargers at Blue Mountain station and public use is free. They are used but electricity cost is minimal; solar panels on building are used to generate power for the chargers.

5. **Financials Review/Approval.** Rebecca presented the quarter 2 financials, to-date. Brian Shinn motioned to approve as presented. Jenny George seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Palouse RTPO 2024-2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) Adoption.** Rebecca provided a general summary of the DRAFT 2024-2029 RTIP. RTPO's are required to update and adopt an RTIP every two years. The last Palouse RTPO RTIP was adopted in December 2021. The updated final draft, including regionally significant projects proposed for construction during the 6-year period of 2024-2029 has been reviewed by WSDOT for confirmation that it meets all RTIP requirements, and was reviewed by the Palouse RTPO TAC on November 28, 2023. TAC recommended approval to the Policy Board. Robert Ward motioned to approve as presented. Jenny George seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Palouse Active Transportation Plan Adoption.** Rebecca presented the final draft Palouse Active Transportation Plan. Public input received during the Palouse Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update process in 2018 identified the need for improvement of trails in the region and public information on trails. After receiving FHWA funds through WSDOT Local Programs in July 2019, Palouse RTPO staff began to develop a Regional Active Transportation Plan (also known as Palouse Regional Trailways Connectivity Plan), involving significant input from members of a Steering Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee that were formed to work on the project. A "draft interim report" of the plan was approved by the project Steering Committee in May 2021. With the Covid-19 pandemic and staffing turnover at Palouse RTPO, completion of the project was delayed until work was picked back up during spring 2023. With the funding agreement end date of December 31, 2023, quickly approaching, Palouse RTPO seeks final adoption of the Palouse Active Transportation Plan and the Palouse Region Trails webpage (partial completion), as presented today. The final plan and the webpage are the final deliverables for this project. Brian Shinn motioned to approve as presented. Rober Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **Whitman County Roundtable.** Whitman County (Commissioner Swannack) provided project updates/information for Whitman County.
9. **Board Member Comments/Open Discussion.** Thanks again to Avista for the presentation. It was requested that Rebecca share the presentation with the board and work to share the information with RTPO communities.

**Next Policy Board Meeting:**

**March 12, 2024 (zoom)**

## Spotlight: Asotin County

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