



Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties

1610 NE Eastgate Boulevard,
Suite 401, Pullman, WA 99161

www.palousetpo.org
(509) 339 7100

TAC Meeting of the Palouse RTPO

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MINUTES – meeting held via ZOOM

- 1. Welcome – Call to Order/Introductions.** Mark Storey (Whitman County), Gregg Figg (WSDOT), Anna Ragaza-Bourassa (WSDOT), Char Kay (WSDOT), Sean Wells (City of Pullman), James Wege (Garfield County), Paul Gonseth (WSDOT). Rebecca Couch (Palouse RTPO).
- 2. Approval of meeting minutes from November 28, 2023.** Char moved to approve. Sean seconded. Minutes approved as presented.
- 3. 2402 AMENDED Palouse RTPO RTIP 2024-2029.** Rebecca shared that the Palouse RTIP has been updated with January and pending February STIP Administrative Modifications. Garfield County and Columbia County TIPs have been added, these projects were received after the Policy Board adopted the RTIP in December. Sean motioned to move RTIP forward to Policy Board with recommendation to adopt. Char seconded. RTIP was approved as presented.
- 4. Review of Unfunded Transportation Planning Projects from 2024-2025 RTPO UPWP.** Rebecca described that it is time to begin reviewing our list of unfunded transportation planning items (from UPWP) considering WA State Transportation Plan update and potential increase in RTPO funding in the future. Some comments on specific projects currently listed were provided and those comments are shown on the attached Unfunded Planning Items list (attached to these minutes). Consensus is that the RTPO should prioritize the list of unfunded items for when money becomes available. However, to prioritize, we need more stakeholders at the table and an in-person meeting. Suggestion for using the prioritization tool on SurveyMonkey to get input prior to in-person meeting. Rebecca mentioned that we may be having a board retreat in June and TAC members would be encouraged to attend. This might be the place to prioritize the list of projects. Char described that preparing a scope of work for safe routes to school study would be beneficial as well for when funding becomes available.
- 5. GMA Fully vs Partially Planning Counties.** Mark shared history from his memory. The small counties originally opted in as fully planning counties because at the time the counties needed money and the state was giving money to those who opted in. Whitman County chose not to opt in because it was determined that the requirements weren't appropriate for the rural county. Mark doesn't believe Whitman County has missed out on any dollars by not being a fully planning county. Sean shared that Pullman is the largest city in the state that is not in a fully planning county. Whitman opting in could provide more revenue for Pullman in terms of impact fees. It was shared that fully planning counties have opportunity to compete against statewide needs for remaining funding. Whitman County and City of Pullman could benefit from further discussion on the topic.

6. RTPO Updates

- a. **Statewide push for an increase in RTPO funding.** Informational item. Rebecca described that there is a statewide push for an increase in funding for RTPOs. If the RTPO was to receive an additional \$150k per year, what would we do with those funds? This is one of the reasons we want to have a board retreat this summer, discussing projects and priorities.
- b. **Discussion of partnership between LCVMPPO and Palouse RTPO for administrative duties.** Informational item. Rebecca described that Policy Board members from the RTPO and LCVMPPO are reviewing possibility and pros and cons of partnership between the two agencies for one director overseeing administrative duties for both agencies.

7. Member comments relative to the RTPO

- a. **Project Updates from Member Agencies.** Sean provided an update on the WSU/Pullman Orchard Dr pathway project. Plans are underway for 2024 construction. Pullman's downtown project will occur April 1 – October.
- b. **General Comments for the Good of the Order.** Char expressed concerns with SR276 right-of-way being turned over to the local County and City agencies without there being any access management. This is also referred to as the north arterial for Pullman. The lack of local agency ability to prevent future development is concerning. Changes in SEPA are raising exemptions higher.

8. Adjourn – next meeting scheduled for May 28, 2024.

Title VI Notice to Public

It is the Palouse RTPO's policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with Palouse RTPO. For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact our office or visit www.palousertpo.org.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Palouse RTPO or by calling us at our office. For any other assistance please call our office.